

Sub HB 248  
Proponent Testimony  
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Ohio House Health Committee  
May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Chairman Lipps, vice chairman Holmes, ranking member Russo and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share with you the support of Health Freedom Ohio for Substitute House Bill 248.

Health Freedom Ohio is an Ohio-based organization committed to raising awareness about health choices and works to preserve the fundamental human right to health freedom. We applaud Representative Jennifer Gross and her co-sponsors for this important safeguard for the rights of Ohio citizens.

Sub HB 248 is a measure that is necessitated by the stunning turn of government and many businesses deciding to treat certain Ohioans as second-class citizens, by setting up systems of rewards and punishments to drive people to accept into their bodies a medical intervention that they have every right and reason to thoughtfully decline to receive.

This is not, as some opponents would erroneously claim, an “anti-vaccination” bill; this is an “anti-discrimination” measure, prohibiting governments, employers and others from requiring people to receive an emergency-use authorization-only pharmaceutical product in order to work, shop, conduct business, or seek education in Ohio.

The bill does three things, and does them well: first, it retains the fundamental civil right of the individual Ohioan to choose for themselves without force, coercion or intimidation what to choose to take in to their bodies as part of their personal health care plan; second, it prohibits governments and businesses from requiring that individuals disclose their health status as a requirement to receive services or retain employment; and third, it provides means of recourse for the individual should either of the first two provisions be violated.

Ohio has historically been a state where an individual can, by means of medical necessity, conscience or conviction, choose to not receive vaccinations, whether for the flu or for many other diseases which fall under the “shot schedules”. We have also historically had other epidemics or pandemics, from smallpox to swine flu, but never before have the citizens been required to under pain of losing access, membership, employment, or services receive an invasive medical procedure.

But now we see many such methods of obtaining that goal: from lock downs to social distancing and personal behavior “guidelines”, from choosing “essential” and “non essential” services which shuttered many small businesses deemed non-essential while allowing the big box stores deemed essential to stay open to setting curfews on certain types of businesses, and now attempting to bribe Ohioans, whether through the roguishly-named “vax-a-million lottery” announced by the Governor, or through businesses “encouraged” by government (remember the references to essential businesses and curfews) to require employees and patrons to show proof that they have submitted to the shot (or shots, depending on which preparation is offered).

This type of coercive behavior has to stop, and it is up to the elected representatives of the people of Ohio to ensure that this trajectory is halted before we lose all semblance of being a free society. Sub

HB 248 not only prohibits such requirements from governmental and business actors, it also provides both civil rights protections and civil judicial access to the individual Ohioan when such prohibitions are ignored or willfully violated by those actors.

The claims of such draconian measures, both the historic and the current, being “in the interest of the public health” ring hollow when compared to the true public health crises that are exacerbated by the actions of government and business during this last 14 months: increases in depression, suicides and attempts, drug overdoses (already at pandemic levels in our state), unemployment, mental health crises, bankruptcies, business failures (they actually didn’t fail; they were forced out of business by these policies), domestic violence, abuse, neglect, and the near loss of a full year of educational advancement for our students.

The remedy sought in Sub HB 248 is a common-sense one: let Ohioans make up their own minds about whether or not to receive an invasive medical intervention, which may not be at all necessary for those who had already acquired and overcome a natural case of the novel coronavirus, and direct governments, their agencies and others to continue to provide goods, services, jobs and benefits to Ohio citizens no differently than what was done before March of 2020.

All of Ohio needs to get back to normal: not a “new normal” of submitting to unwanted medical interventions and then showing proof of having done so in order to live, work and move about the state, but the normal of each of us deciding for ourselves the best ways to handle out health concerns, how to interact with others, and to conduct our business and educational affairs without threats, intimidation, or being denied access.

Please adopt Sub HB 248 at your earliest possible opportunity, and free Ohioans from such discriminatory actions. Thank you for your kind attention to this testimony.