

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248.

My name is Becca Shomper and in our household we have students, a small business owner and a stay at home parent. The reason we support House Bill 248 is because we fully value autonomy and the right to choose our medical procedures and act in our businesses, schools and homes based on personal convictions and firmly held beliefs. In our family it has meant people have made different choices throughout the covid-19 pandemic and we have been able to compassionately understand and support those choices made with forethought per each persons beliefs. It is imperative to us that this basic freedom be maintained not only for us, but for those we love around us. At the beginning of the pandemic and persisting through til even now these rights have been violated by emergency orders and we are in full support of the verbiage of the bill that would prohibit this occurring again in the future.

It is crucial to ensure that people working in various fields are continually permitted to make the choices they believe to be the best for their families, while maintaining their job security and healthcare privacy. We stand firmly against the notion of a vaccine passport or certain liberties privileges and even rights being afforded to only those individuals who have chosen to take a vaccine, prove immunity, or agree to a test.

We also stand firmly behind religious liberty as outlined in our nations constitution and expect that religious, philosophical, and medical exemptions will be protected and agree with the phrasing in this bill that necessitates parents being informed that such exemptions exist.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248.

*Sincerely,
Rebecca Shomper*