

May 22, 2021

Vaccine Choice & Anti-Discrimination Act

House Bill 248 Proponent Testimony

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 Stacey, I am nurse, wife, mother, and I support House Bill 248. Vaccine choice is essential to the pursuit of life and liberty. Vaccines are a consumable product, and the manufacturers have no liability for these products. It has been argued by some that we have a moral obligation to vaccinate ourselves- I would argue that mandates are morally offensive and unethical. To tell another human that they must inject themselves with a product that has been declared unavoidably unsafe in a court of law is abhorrent. The 1986 Vaccine Act has proven to shield vaccine makers from liability. As many of you may know the result of this is an injured individual has to go to a special vaccine court funded by U.S taxpayers in order to obtain compensation for their injury or death. I often wonder if we would put our faith in a car seat to protect our most precious children knowing without a doubt some of the seats on the market will harm our children? Would we spend \$300 dollars and take on the risk knowing what may happen? Would we be content knowing we could never sue the car seat manufacturer for knowingly selling us this product they knew could cause harm or death? I personally would not buy a product that had no legal recourse for harm or damages.

Since this is the Anti-Discrimination and Vaccine Choice Act, I would like to share my families experience through this pandemic. We have a son who has bilateral hearing loss. He can hear well in one ear, but the other is more significant of a deficit. I have chosen to not mask to not hinder his ability to see my face and clearly communicate with him. The result has been an uphill battle to function in Ohio. I have learned what grocery stores will allow me in, retail establishments, restaurants, and entertainment establishments. There is one day a month with a two-hour time slot at the children's museum for those who are unable to mask, there is no entrance allowed into the aquarium, certain toy stores will not permit us in, no entry allowed into our libraries. Many of these places will not even allow a face shield in place of the mask. I have been asked to leave a funeral for lack of a mask. This was truly heart wrenching. Will the governors influence on masks spill over into the public's perception of safety for non-vaccinated people?

I have attached the CDC's excipient list to show that the ingredients can be objectionable to some. They pose a moral dilemma for me. As a Christian it violates my conscience to consume these products. Several vaccines contain aborted fetal cells or have used the fetal cells in the manufacturing or testing of the product. If an individual chose to consume a vaccine that is highly personal and their right. No person, business, or agency should have the right to bribe, incentivize or exclude an individual based on the status of their consumption of an unavoidably unsafe product.

During the last two weeks I have read countless places of business in Ohio who will be allowing employees who are vaccinated to unmask, how employees of certain healthcare facilities will have indefinite bi-weekly covid testing if they decline the covid vaccine. I have heard how some places of business are announcing to all employees the names of the employees who have declined the covid vaccine. This is simply unacceptable. We are not lepers of society and we do not accept being excluded from the village we ourselves have helped build. We have invested care in our communities, tax dollars, and service in our military. We vaccine risk aware Ohioans are educated individuals who have weighed the benefits along with the risks and have decided to decline this injection. I myself have spoken to many people from car mechanics to nurses, interior designers, lawyers, chiropractors, chiropractor assistants, massage therapist, epidemiologist, hairdressers, garbage men, pediatricians, schoolteachers, pastors, and many more who plan to never take the covid vaccine. Should we be treated any different than a citizen who has consumed this product? I do not want to watch a medical apartheid unfold in Ohio. We can do better than this. Ohio wants protection from discrimination. Ohio wants this bill to pass.

As a nurse I value scientific data, and in turn I value the non-profit group physicians for informed Consent. I have attached the short-term efficacy and safety data sheets for the Moderna, Janssen- Johnson&Johnson, and the Pfizer-Biontech covid vaccines. I would note that much of what we read here is not shared by our governor who has a great influence on the private and public sector.

Does my value come from pharmaceutical product consumption? Does it come from my skin color or my socioeconomic status? Indeed not. I am valuable as a woman created in the image of almighty God. Fearfully and wonderfully made by God. I am endowed with rights by my creator and no man should try to infringe on those rights. I am not a threat to you. I am healthy. I take care of myself. I practice common sense, and when the occasional cold comes on, I stay home. I believe in nourishing my body and taking personal responsibility for my health. I teach my children the same. They are valuable. They are worthy of an education; they should be able to participate in all areas of society without having their "status" known to all. Please vote to protect them.

Discrimination has no place in America.

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

Sincerely,

Stacey Sigetic