

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

My name is Samir Patel and I support HB248. I believe everyone has the right to their own health. I was pro-vaccine back in the day (prior-2008). But after 2008, I had many encounters at the store I work at with mothers and families that had their children vaccinated. I started to change my views on vaccinations when I personally engaged with many families that questioned vaccinations because their child(s) started acting differently after the vaccination. Many of them cried in front of me and told me that they saw their child drift away in front of their very eyes. Back then I wasn't a parent and couldn't relate as well. I'm a parent now, and I'm listening.

I had biology and chemistry at University of Illinois at Chicago. I'm not a graduate but I was in senior classes in my first year at the college because of AP classes. Although, I don't have a degree, I do have common sense. Not everyone has a reaction to vaccinations but some do. We need to understand why some kids have reactions. This not a scientific study that we need to do for the sake of science, but for the sake of our children! We have spent millions of dollars on frivolous expeditions (just an example... <https://www.nationalreview.com/2015/12/top-10-wasteful-government-expenses/>) can't we spend some money on our kids? Are our kids that much of a problem for you politicians? I guess you politicians make so much money after becoming a politician that you didn't care about the rest of us with little ones.

YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTROL MY LIFE!!! You may think you have the right to control my life but you have no understanding of what I have gone through. If you want me and my family to take the shot, then you will have to sign a paper that says that the state and you are 100% liable for whatever negative side effects my family and I go through! If you are willing to sign, then so am I.

Sincerely,

Samir Patel