



Proponent Testimony for House Bill 248
Ohio House Health Committee
June 3, 2021

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.

I am Stephanie Stock, President of Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom, a non-partisan non-profit advocating for Ohioan's right to choose or refuse any medical treatment or procedure, including vaccination. Our organization represents an active community of over fifty thousand. I am here today to testify in support of Ohio House Bill 248.

Some of you will recall countless testimonies that myself, and members of our organization have provided in numerous hearings, over the past half dozen years, foreshadowing this very issue. Multiple times, we have brought to the Ohio legislature's attention that healthcare professionals were being forced to choose between a flu vaccine, and their job. We warned many of you and your legislative colleagues that if the issue wasn't addressed then, it would be only a matter of time before an issue affecting all Ohioans would be at your desks. In fact, it was only several months ago that we provided testimony for SB22 and HB90, warning that mandatory vaccines for all Ohioans was an imminent concern. Here we are.

For years healthcare workers have been required by their employers to subscribe to a mandatory vaccination program against our wishes. Now the general public faces the same with Covid-19 vaccines becoming mandated in their places of employment, as a requirement to attend school, and even as a prerequisite to participate in society.

We won't get into the weeds on the "science". After the last year, we should all be able to acknowledge that the science is incomplete, at best. This bill is about personal liberty. It's about maintaining your choice to direct your own healthcare decisions. Yes, I mean you – members of our House Health Committee. This bill affects you, also!

Ponder for a minute. Maybe you have no issue receiving the Influenza vaccine. Maybe you were even on with receiving one of the Covid-19 vaccines. But how would you feel about the state, or an employer, or a university, or a retailer requiring you to remain up-to-date on all vaccinations on the CDC adult vaccine schedule?¹ What about all future "pandemic" vaccines? Maybe there may be a time in the future that you're like to decline one? Or what about the hundreds of vaccines that are currently in development? If they all come to market, would you like to be required to receive all of those? And even if you do, is it your honest position that you should have the right to impose that on others?

You see, you either believe in all liberty, or you don't believe in any.

You either believe in all bodily integrity, or you don't believe in any.

You either believe in all individual healthcare privacy, or you don't believe in any.

You either believe in all personal choice in healthcare decisions, or you don't believe in any.

These are not pick-and-choose concepts. Your principals are not à la carte. These are foundational beliefs that reflect your moral compass. And also remember, this all applies to yourself, also. So think carefully, because "rules are for thee, but not for me" doesn't go over well with Ohioans.



You may ask: “But what about ‘public health’”? Yes, what about public health? It should be abundantly clear by now that most of the past year and a half has not been about “science”, it’s been about compliance. And here we are, facing fifty of the state’s largest healthcare lobbying organizations opposing this bill. But when you read the memos to their staff or members, or the letters they’ve sent to the legislature, what scientific arguments against this legislation have they made? None. Some of the state’s most respected healthcare officials and “scientific” leaders. But crickets on the science. No statistics on hospital staff to patient infections. No statistics on community spread among employees in a healthcare setting. Nothing. They’ve only expressed their concern that they will not be able to force other Ohioans to participate in their vaccine programs. Again, compliance.

You may ask: “But what about private businesses and their right to operate without government interference?” Great question! While we’re at it, let’s rescind minimum wage. Let’s rescind maternity leave. Let’s rescind all anti-discrimination laws. While we’re at it, let’s rescind all safety regulations. We can eliminate all the health inspector and fire inspector positions. Let’s dissolve the Department of Liquor Control. Shall I continue? You see, the government regulates businesses in many ways. Some in the legislature believe there should be more regulation, some believe there should be less. But the reality is, when it comes to a customer, or an employee, a business doesn’t have the right to require a pharmaceutical be injected into your body. They don’t have a right to determine if doing so violates your religious beliefs. They don’t have a right to veto your healthcare provider’s advice not to receive one vaccine or another. They don’t have a right to discriminate against you for your healthcare decisions.

Many Americans, who cannot, or choose not to be vaccinated, have feared that the world is becoming a place where they will no longer be permitted to travel, attend music or sporting events, or even send their children to school. That fear is now becoming a reality. Every day, vaccine status discrimination is being further engrained into our society.

Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom strongly encourages you to vote in favor of Ohio House Bill 248 to codify Ohioans’ right to maintain sole direction in their healthcare decisions and reaffirm Ohioans’ right to healthcare privacy.

God Bless! Sincerely,

Stephanie Stock, LPTA

President, Ohio Advocates for Medical Freedom
Parent of a child that suffered a vaccine injury.

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html>