

## HB 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 David Swain and I am a husband, father of four and an engineer. I support House Bill 248 because we have suffered under the tyranny of unaccountable rule for over a year in Ohio.

My family has suffered because of the immoral, and arguably illegal, mandates of the past year. Isolation from family and friends. Cancelled birthday parties for our young children. Mental health challenges because of being basically held prisoner in our own home. Made to feel shame and derision from people because one of us has a legitimate exemption from the mask mandate. We have felt isolated and alone for over a year as people were made to fear everyone else. We watched helplessly as our state turned totalitarian. You may think that is hyperbole, but I do not know what else to call it when you must watch weekly press conferences to find out what your governor will allow you to do. Now, after all this, vaccination is being presented as the ticket out of this tyranny.

I know the subject of vaccination is fraught with controversy. People on both sides of the debate cite scientific evidence and expert opinion. Both sides say they have the public's best interest at heart. To say that it is difficult to wade through this mire looking for answers is an understatement. But when it comes to vaccination as a matter of legislation, the issue becomes much clearer. The studies, the empirical data, the inflammatory articles -- it all recedes into the background and only one relevant question remains: who owns you? The United States was founded on the principle that each individual possesses inalienable rights endowed by his or her creator. It follows, then, that if the answer to this question is in any way the "State" or "business" then the principle and ideal the United States was founded on is lost.

Any law or mandate, whether public or private, that in any way coerces someone to receive a vaccine for any purpose is a violation of a person's inalienable right to control their own body and what goes in it.

There are opponents of HB 248 that decry this legislation as decimating the ability to mount a "public health" response in the time of crisis. But those who think that the government has a responsibility to ensure public health for the greater good do so at the expense of individual rights. The problem is that the only basis for any greater good is the surety that an individual's inalienable rights are secured. Any version of a "greater good" that is not founded upon an uncompromising stance for individual liberty goes against the spirit that the nation was founded in and is no "good" at all.

I support HB 248 as it will ensure no one's rights are endangered. All vaccinations should be completely voluntary with complete and informed consent absent of any mandate or coercion. It is the only moral way to handle this situation. The covid vaccine is now available to anyone who wants it, and it should be their decision, with the approval of their own conscience alone, whether to receive it.

But this goes beyond covid, which is why HB 248 is so critical. There is always a disease or health crisis being trumpeted. Even now there are reports of a new flu strain reported in Wuhan. We cannot be

subjected to the tyranny of the past year ever again. We need this bill to ensure that individuals, the only ones with the right and ability to, can take the best course of action to protect their health.

I am not an anti-vaccine "kook." I am merely a husband and father trying to ensure the security of my family's rights into the future. As a citizen of this great state, I am confident you will do what is necessary to defend our inalienable human right to free and informed consent in all medical decisions.

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

Sincerely,

David Swain  
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