

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 Jeneen Tackett and I am a dedicated wife, stay-at-home mom, university graduate, homeschooling parent, disabled US Navy veteran, and lifetime Ohio resident. The reasons I support House Bill 248 are manifold. In spite of my passionate support of health freedoms, I will attempt brevity in order to make my concerns clear.

House Bill 248 will protect myself and my family from discrimination. I give the following example. My teen son works in an Ohio retail establishment which has released a public statement that they will demand their employees to provide proof of vaccination status in order to work without a mask. This is beyond an invasion of medical privacy, and I list the following reasons why. There are more reasons, but again, brevity!

1. It invites harassment and shaming by fellow employees and customers, because the mask effectively becomes a prominent badge proclaiming a perceived dirty and diseased person. The retail establishments are using coercion via mass peer pressure to get more vaccine uptake.
2. It is an invasion of medical privacy to force an employee to wear a visible sign displaying their medical status to anyone in the store. No one should have to openly display their medical status in regards to any treatment, disability, or diagnosis.
3. This action directly discriminates against persons who philosophically or religiously object to medical interventions such as vaccines, as well as those who medically cannot tolerate such a medical treatment. It is plainly discriminatory to be openly punished and forced into wearing a medical device (mask) only because you choose against a medical intervention.
4. Customers will be mixing with many other non-vaccinated people in the store, by their own choice of entering a public place. There is no difference between that exposure and being around an employee. Employees can still distance from customers, or stay behind plexiglass to encourage safety, yet a store will put a non-vaccinated employee on display, and therefore subject to stigmatization.
5. Discriminating based on medical status is not only unethical on an individual level, it has societal effects. It is directly helping to create a caste society with the non-vaccinated becoming the lepers of society. How is this action considered practicing equality in the workplace? When considering the Civil Rights Act, is it even acceptable to make employees wear an outward symbol of their medical status?
6. Openly labeling people based on medical status is strongly encouraging discrimination, division and segregation. Will we make people use different drinking fountains and restrooms next? Where does it end? Where will we draw the line? This isn't Nazi Germany. We should be past openly marking people as unclean!

Vaccine passports are just another label that makes your personal medical status public. Medical decision freedoms, and the right to maintain personal and family privacy regarding those decisions, should be closely guarded. It is a basic civil right to choose what goes into our bodies. We need only look at not so distant history to know that it is absolutely essential that a recipient of a potential medical intervention be fully informed of the potential risks and benefits of said intervention, and to then have the absolute freedom to choose receipt or not. It is

unacceptable for a person to be forced, coerced, intimidated, shamed, frightened, threatened or otherwise negatively pressured into a medical decision. The idea of a vaccine passport has the potential to push any number of people into the acceptance of a personally undesired vaccine, through fear of direct or indirect injurious effects . No one should feel any pressure to receive a medical treatment.

Where there is risk, there must be choice, and freedom from fear of negative effects based on that choice. Every person in existence has an inherent right to not only decide what goes into their body, but to also be free of discrimination and segregation based on their personal decisions.

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

Sincerely,
Jeneen Tackett
Ludlow Falls, Ohio