

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 Antonia Costa, and I am a student at Kent State University, a high school girls soccer coach at Laurel Schools, and a front desk sales associate at a fitness center in Chagrin Falls. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because without House Bill 248, I will lose all the opportunities I have just mentioned. For the past three years, I have gone to school full-time while working two jobs in order to pay for my tuition. If the vaccination becomes a requirement, I will not be able to work, and I will not be able to finish school—the past three years will have been a complete waste of an immense amount of my time, money, and hard work, and I will not be able to fulfill my future aspirations. I feel trapped between putting something into my body that I am not at all comfortable with, or, having all my opportunities stripped away.

Not getting the vaccination is a decision that I feel is best for me. In order to have the freedom to make this decision, without being discriminated against or having subsequent repercussions, House Bill 248 is necessary.

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

Sincerely,
Antonia Costa