

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 Danielle Thoma and am a stay at home wife and mom. This year, I did something I swore I would never do again- I turned back to home educating our four school age children. This has been such a blessing and has afforded us many great conversations over the last school year. One reason I support House Bill 248 is because of my kids. Our future. They see and hear what's going on in our world today. They compare the handling of many recent situations up against the words and action of our founding fathers during our history study, up against our Declaration of Independence as they memorize it, and can see the disparagement.

They can see segregation blatantly being promoted by our very own Governor, and are surprised and saddened by his actions. At the beginning of cheerleading this winter, my daughter was on the receiving end of segregation. She was told she must enter and exit from the school's back door only, as she is exempt from wearing a mask. Now, businesses are pushing mandatory vaccination of an experimental drug- it just keeps getting worse!

Please help us set this precedent to protect us, to protect our children, to protect generations to come from being required to choose between their livelihood and an experimental drug.

I also support the transparency included in this Bill. So many parents have told me over the years that they had no clue Ohio offers exemptions. So many parents have expressed sorrow for what their children have "had" to go through. I've even gone to our superintendent. He made changes that lasted about a year. But he also said something to the effect of "parents that want to exempt already know about those options." Which is simply not true. So, our school district chooses to withhold key information on papers sent out to children and parents. Our schools continue to not be transparent on this issue. Which begs the question: "What else are they keeping from us?"

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

I will leave you with a portion of a song that runs through my head often these days:

"The Lord bless you

And keep you

Make His face shine upon you

And be gracious to you

The Lord turn His

Face toward you

And give you peace

.....

May His favor be upon you

And a thousand generations

And your family and your children

And their children, and their children  
May His favor be upon you  
And a thousand generations  
And your family and your children  
And their children, and their children"

The Blessing Song by Cody Carnes, Elevation Worship, and Kari Jobe

It's a great song reminding us to love well. Because our choices today affect generations.

Sincerely, Danielle N. Thoma