

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Honorable Members of the Health Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Sub House Bill 248.

I am a Registered Nurse and a Certified Case Manager. In my clinical experience I have cared for patients who were admitted to the neurological ICU as a result of vaccine injury. This experience has caused me to take a closer look at vaccination and vaccine policy in the US. I can see aspects of this controversial topic from both the patient and the healthcare provider perspective. Though there are many angles to this discussion, the one element that both patient and provider should always agree upon is the dedication to the process of informed consent, which includes a patient's right to refuse a medical intervention without fear of retribution.

Article 6 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights states:

“Any preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic medical intervention is only to be carried out with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned, based on adequate information. The consent should, where appropriate, be express and may be withdrawn by the person concerned at any time and for any reason without disadvantage or prejudice.”

Sub HB 248 supports individual vaccination choice and rejects discrimination against individuals on the basis of their choice. Please remember the following historical events and the victims involved:

- The Tuskegee Experiment
- 1955 Cutter Incident¹
- 1955-1963 SV40 virus contamination of the Polio vaccine²
- 1976 Swine Flu Vaccine and Guillain-Barre Syndrome³

Additionally, please consider the system failures that exemplify the necessity for individual choice on the matter of vaccination:

- Financial conflicts of interest between the industry and public health advisory committee members, for example see the New York Times article, “Advisers on Vaccines Often Have Conflicts, Report Says” in which it was revealed:

“The report found that 64 percent of the advisers had potential conflicts of interest that were never identified or were left unresolved by the centers. Thirteen

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/concerns-history.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/concerns-history.html>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/guillain-barre-syndrome.html>

percent failed to have an appropriate conflicts form on file at the agency at all, which should have barred their participation in the meetings entirely, Mr. Levinson found. And 3 percent voted on matters that ethics officers had already barred them from considering.”⁴

- Vaccine manufacturers and administering personnel are protected from liability
“No person may bring a civil action ... against a vaccine administrator or manufacturer in a State or Federal court for damages arising from a vaccine-related injury or death.”⁵
- Vaccine injuries cases are not permitted to be litigated through a formal court proceeding with discovery
- Without liability, manufacturers are no longer subject to the normal market forces that are relied upon for product safety
- Safety data is limited as the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System⁶ (VAERS) is under-utilized; many healthcare providers have no knowledge of this system and do not know of their obligation⁷ to report

Vaccination is an invasive medical procedure that cannot be undone. Both the stated vaccine excipients and the materials used in product development carry profound ethical, medical and religious implications. The risks of vaccination include permanent injury and death. Individual consumer decisions regarding vaccination must be made with informed consent free from coercion and including the right to refuse.

Sub HB 248 supports the process of informed consent by protecting individuals from institutional coercion and discriminatory policies. Please support sub HB 248, and thank you for this opportunity to testify.

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/18/health/policy/18cdc.html>

⁵ 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-1 et seq

⁶ <https://vaers.hhs.gov/>

⁷ <https://vaers.hhs.gov/resources/infoproviders.html>