

My name is April Walters and I am a college educated mother who began homeschooling my two children (ages 9 and 11) in the fall of 2020 due to how the COVID restrictions/school changes were to negatively impact their education and learning environment. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because maintaining vaccine choice and healthcare privacy is a freedom I believe is foundational to the freedom we should have as humans. What we put into our bodies should be our decision especially when it is in the form of an injection that has residual effects. It is a slippery slope to allow for the coercive and discriminatory practices I have observed related to the COVID vaccines. The talk about vaccine passports and the idea of a shot being mandated for people to get against their wishes is unacceptable to me.

The data available from Vaccine Event Reporting System (VAERS) has shown these vaccines to have adverse reactions that exceed any recent vaccinations in history including deaths. It is likely those numbers are probably higher than what has been reported based on previous research findings that have indicated underreporting to VAERS. These vaccines have not been given the same amount of time to evaluate safety and effectiveness as other vaccines due to the rushed nature of trying to get them produced. There is still much left unknown regarding the long-term effects if any of these vaccines.

For any medical decision there should be a cost/benefit analysis done by the patient. Many of us have concluded that getting these vaccines is not in our favor based on our health, age and other risk factors. In addition, many people have already had COVID and should not be required to also get a vaccine which contradicts what science knows about disease and developing antibodies. It is still not clear how long someone keeps antibodies to COVID but a one size fits all shot requirement for these individuals is also not based on science because we have not had this situation before. If we allow our society to dictate what our bodies are required to be injected with despite known risks or require the unvaccinated to continue wearing masks in order to go to work, school, or the grocery store, we are creating a hostile, un-American place to live.

Passing House Bill 248 will protect Ohioans and their freedoms now and in the future with regards to their healthcare privacy and making medical decisions regarding vaccines. We need to put this protection into place now before things spiral out of control and negatively impact many more Ohioans who should not be penalized for making different decisions given the many unknowns that exist regarding COVID and these vaccines.

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

Sincerely,  
April Walters