

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 Luke Allen Walton and I am a Desktop Architect for Summa Health System and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because:

Choice matters. Privacy matters. Not being labeled and identified for either taking or refusing a vaccine matters. The fact that a debate over a vaccine “passport” is even happening is scary enough. The fact that a private entity, government or individual can and will coerce, force, or otherwise mandate any vaccine is wrong. The fact that all those individuals want access to private medical data is scary. When does it end and where does it stop? The idea of using private corporations/entities to enforce “passports” have been floated and you can already see them trying to implement such a thing themselves. Walmart, Target, Trader Joe’s, and numerous other entities have already said you can go maskless if you are vaccinated albeit with no way to verify. What’s after that though? If I choose not to get the vaccine will I not be able to get groceries for my family? Go to the hospital for treatment? See my primary care physician? They labeled the Jews in Nazi Germany (gold stars) and want to do it again to everyone that refuses.

A private entity, employer, or government should not have the right to mandate, dictate, or coerce any vaccine or invasive medical treatment, PERIOD. I know that at some point, since there are currently very few protections, I could lose my position for simply refusing to take something that they feel they can mandate. A decision like that should be left up to myself and my doctor, not the organization I work for, the locality in which I live or the country I reside in. Vaccines or any medical treatment are not one size fits all and should not be forced on anyone.

I am not coming at this as either “Anti-Vax” or “Pro-Vax” since I am neither. I am fully vaccinated, however, that is by choice. I do not agree with the idea of forced vaccinations for anyone, regardless. Again, that decision should be left up to the doctor and patient. There are both good and bad vaccines, some that have been really helpful and others that have ended in disaster, in the end it comes down to “My body, my choice”.

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

Sincerely, Luke A. Walton

