

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and honorable members of the Health Community,

My name is Alicia Weaver and I am writing to you today to ask that you vote yes and support HB248. This is the year 2021, a year that most back in the 40's more than likely couldn't even dream of. They were dealing with WWII and the future might have seemed bleak. Why am I bringing up WWII or the 40's, well I am standing here today faced with the loss of freedom in my "free country" but more over the potential loss of freedom in my home state that I love. This past year has been trying for most of us and I think we can all agree that there is a massive division that has been brought onto the people of this county and state. I fear what our future might look like if we do not pass bills and legislation that will protect basic human rights.

In WWII there was a group of people who were persecuted, discriminated against, and were forced to "show me your papers." They say that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. I personally think we are on that trajectory if we do not change course soon.

Vaccination is a medical procedure, it is not one to be taken lightly and it is one that can have a list of pros and cons. It is not up to businesses to weigh out those pros and cons and make a decision for people. We shouldn't have to worry about our jobs, how we will get food, our children being hurt or bullied all based on this narrative that someone who refuses an experimental procedure is somehow less than.

I would never downplay what has happened over this last year, but it pains me to see that no one was talking about diet, nutrition, supplementing more vitamin D. No one was giving people the tools to empower their health, but rather we were shot with a huge dose of fear; and that fear is now the driving force into hating others because they choose what is best for their bodies.

You can't shout "my body my choice" and then carry around fine print that only serves one narrative. No, our bodies, our god given bodies are ours and ours alone. We are responsible for them, it is us that will have to suffer and pay the consequences should something not go in the right direction and as such it should be up to us to choose what we do or don't do with it.

Please protect and support Ohioans. Please vote yes on HB248- this bill protects Ohioans from facing discrimination, votes yes to allowing us the choice to choose what our bodies need ,what our families need. Please protect this basic human right from being stripped and attacked.

And thank you for your continued efforts for making Ohio a wonderful place to live.

Thank you
Alicia Weaver