

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 Amanda Yeary and I am a stay at home mom to two fully unvaccinated children. One of those children, my youngest, who is just four years old, was born extremely immunocompromised, and remains immunocompromised and will be for the rest of her life. She has multiple congenital heart defects, as well as Down syndrome. She receives medical care from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where we have already experienced discrimination regarding her vaccination status. I am extremely concerned about the future of both my children, but particularly that of my disabled daughter who will require more heart surgeries and ongoing medical care for the rest of her life. Over the past year, I have watched our God given rights be trampled, and it does not appear to be stopping any time soon. The rhetoric being aimed at those of us who have educated ourselves and chosen to opt out of the vaccine program, for which there is no liability for the vaccine manufacturers, is quite frankly terrifying, and something I hoped never to see in the United States of America. I have spent over ten years researching vaccines, and the past four years justifying my decision to not vaccinate my daughter to the countless medical professionals we have encountered across the state, and I believe it is my choice and right to decide what is injected into my children's bodies and what is not. I have made informed decisions, and my children have remained extremely healthy. Despite being born in critical condition, my daughter is thriving, and though it is no one's business aside from mine and the medical professionals I choose to care for them, neither of my children have contracted ANY communicable disease that is vaccinated against, including the flu. I hoped we would never live in a society where I thought my husband might lose his job, my

children might not be eligible for medical care, and I might not be able to visit the grocery store due to our vaccination status, but it looks like that time is quickly approaching, and might even already be upon us. If vaccines work so well, why do you care if my children are vaccinated? Aren't yours protected if yours are vaccinated? Science is never settled, and the science surrounding vaccines is no different. Where there is risk, there absolutely MUST be choice. A quick look at the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System shows there are indeed risks when it comes to vaccines. Every Ohioan, and American should be able to weigh the risks and benefits and make the healthcare decision that is best for them.

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

Sincerely,
Amanda Yeary