

June 1, 2021

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 Kolleen Young and I work as a Human Resource Administrator with Johns Manville, and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because I fear a total loss of medical privacy, and discrimination if this bill does not pass.

At my place of employment, we were told if we are fully vaccinated, we must give HR or the company nurse a copy of our vaccine record and then we will no longer be required to wear masks. For those of us who are not fully vaccinated we must continue to wear masks. I have already been the subject of snide remarks and questions about my choice of not getting the covid vaccine. It is no one's business, I made the ADULT decision based on MY medical needs and background to NOT get the vaccine. Whatever happened to all the liberals shouting, 'My Body My Choice'? Same is true now, 100%.

My place of business is turning into a hostile work environment, it is allowing others to judge others not knowing or caring why they may have chosen to not be vaccinated. There are hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens, Ohio citizens who have chosen not to get the vaccine . . .that is our right. It is our undeniable right to live free. Freedom is not granted to us by any of your bills or laws, or by our governor. It is MY RIGHT TO LIVE FREE and not be signaled out. It is my undeniable right to carry on with my life, not hurting anyone . . . just living free. It is, after all, MY BODY, MY CHOICE.

My medical privacy is my business only – I should not have to fear discrimination, segregation, harassment, constant questions about why I'm not vaccinated, do I have a date scheduled yet, etc. It is absolutely no one's business.

If they're vaccinated, and I am not . . . truly, what harm do I offer them? If all these vaccines truly are vaccines – they are 100% protected. My dogs are all vaccinated against rabies, distemper, parvo.... not to protect any other dogs, but to only protect them. That's how vaccines work. It's time to drop the fear mongering, the ignorance, the total disregard for real science..... please pass HB 248 and let those of us who are vaccine free to have medical privacy and to live free from discrimination.

Respectfully,

Kolleen Young