

Testimony on House Bill 248  
House Health Committee  
June 15, 2021

Submitted by:  
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Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to HB 248.

I am a concerned Ohioan, mother and community volunteer in OH86 with 2 children who are essential workers. I am writing this testimony today because I am disgusted that our legislature is trying to pass another bill that would put Ohioans in danger. Banning employees, schools and others from requiring or even incentivizing vaccines is unnecessary and as the entire world has seen supported by quacks and conspiracy theorists some of you invited as “experts.”

Ohioans already have protections that allow them to decline vaccines for religious, medical or conscience. This bill is being presented as a “medical freedom bill” when those freedoms already exist. This bill actually ignores the “freedom” of employers and businesses to protect their employees and customers from diseases know to be preventable with vaccines; diseases like Covid-19, which killed 600K Americans in the past year. This bill would reverse decades of immunity from life-threatening diseases like Polio and Meningitis, preventable through wide-spread use of vaccines. Do you really want to bring those deadly diseases back to Ohio?

Ohio now ranks 32 in vaccinations, which puts us far behind stopping Covid-19 spread. Republican misinformation has increased hesitancy. We can't base legislation & public policy on false information when our lives are at stake in Ohio. We became a world wide joke last week when republicans called in conspiracy theorists as “experts”. I can get a key to stick to my forehead too, it's called surface tension & sweat. Stop embarrassing us. The majority party turned our statehouse into a Covid hot spot by refusing to take personal safety seriously by wearing masks. What you do impacts all of us. Why don't you try to solve actual issues in Ohio instead of grandstanding for the benefit of your supporters?

I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this horribly dangerous bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.