

Witness Statement

My name is Deborah Koehler. I am currently a consultant for a consulting company, YourEncore, and a retired organic chemist from The Procter & Gamble Company (24 years). I have undergraduate degrees in Organic Chemistry and Mathematics, and graduate work in Pharmacy.

HB248 would have disastrous effects on all Ohioan's physical health and the State's economic future. Workplace and school safety are compromised significantly when workers and students are exempted from making vaccination requirements, as set by the appropriate medical authorities, such as the CDC and the local medical professionals. We, as both workers and students, will now be needlessly closely exposed to communicable diseases such as polio, meningitis, tb, COVID, just a few among many others. What is **next?** Removing the prohibitions from subjecting workers and students to second hand smoke to satisfy the "rights" of those who wish to destroy their own lungs, to include passively destroying the health of my lungs by inhaling their excreted smoke? Removing the rights of employers and schools and yes, also hospitals, to require the use of the appropriate means to prevent the sharing of disease laden smoke, or exhalations from the respiratory tracts of the unvaccinated is, beyond all scientific logic. No one has the right to sicken and injure others. We have OSHA requirements to promote workplace safety....this bill, HB248, makes the workplace unsafe. It makes schools unsafe places for their staff, and the children attending these schools. We need to leave the **RIGHTS to establish and maintain workplace and public safety in the hands of those best to determine that, those very employers and schools.**

Adopting HB248 would also damage the ability for Ohio and Ohioans to compete globally. The EU is already establishing vaccination requirements for international travel. And therefore, for doing international business. Ohio doesn't compete in a vacuum. HB248 makes Ohio compete with two hands and a foot tied behind their backs. We are not just Ohio workers....we are global workers. We need to make sure we are as safe a work location for those international businesses and their employees. HB248's approval makes Ohio less competitive by promoting local disregard for public health. As such, it is foolish, shortsighted, and purely reactionary.

I strongly recommend that HB248 be rejected.. it is an affront to all Ohioan's health and economic prosperity.