

**Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and members of the House Health Committee.**

**Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Dana Aritonovich. I am a lifelong Ohioan. I believe in science and I am fully vaccinated against COVID-19. I have not become magnetized, nor have I been converted into a 5G hotspot. I have not grown a tail or a third eye. I have no signs of a Bill Gates microchip having been implanted through a needle. I am strongly opposed to House Bill 248, the anti-vaccination bill.**

**HB 248 is not about personal choice. It's anti-science, anti-reality, and anti-American. We do not have the natural right to put others at risk. When people choose to not get vaccinated against a deadly disease because they do not think COVID is real, or because they think the Chinese government created it in a lab, or because they think the American government is using it to control us, or because they think they're immune, or because they think God will protect them, or because they think they're too smart/strong/healthy to get it—too often, one person somehow believes all of these falsehoods simultaneously—they are unnecessarily putting all of us at risk. To be clear, I am only referring to conspiracy theorists and radical anti-vaxxers, not to those who are medically unable to get vaccinated or whose religion specifically prohibits vaccination. I would argue that the vast majority of those who refuse vaccination belong to the conspiracy theorist and radical anti-vaxxer categories.**

**HB 248 is based on lies and fear. See the recent testimony of “Dr.” Sherri Tenpenny and supposed nurse practitioner student Joanna Overholt. While they and other liars, conspiracy theorists, and willfully uninformed citizens certainly have the right to speak, to provide such a platform for them is to assert that all opinions are equally valid. They are not. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Period.**

**HB 248 is anti-American. If Republicans are opposed to government interference in our lives and in business affairs, they should withdraw this bill immediately. If they think it's okay for companies and individuals to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community, for example, then they must also be okay with what they see as discrimination against those who selfishly choose to remain unvaccinated and put themselves and others in danger.**

**I ask you to consider my testimony and vote NO on this embarrassing and harmful bill. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.**