

To 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 Allison Occkial and I am a small business owner of a health & wellness practice. I am a certified holistic nutritionist, personal trainer and functional medicine health coach. I have made it my purpose and passion to teach, empower & support others to be proactive about their health & make personalized changes, so that they can gain their highest quality of well-being.

I strongly support House Bill 248 because of many reasons, both personal and also for the sake of my fellow Ohioans.

I see this bill as essential to protect the liberties and privacy that EVERYONE has in this state and country. We all have the right to choose what we do with our individual health and the health of our family, whether that is to vaccinate, to have medical procedures, medication or drugs, or any other means available. Everyone's version of health & their decisions will be different, and it is not up to the government, a private entity or establishments to require, coerce, judge, discriminate against these private decisions.

A vaccine mandate completely goes against our Constitutional rights (the 14th Amendment) the Civil Rights Act, the ADA and EEO, as well as the Nuremburg Code.

Whenever there is a risk associated with health choices, there should always be a choice, and that freedom must be upheld. Our privacy and liberties as not only citizens of this country, but as humans, are being violated and have been for the last 18 months. We have been pushed, coerced and mandated to give up our personal health freedoms for the sake of public health.

There are no restrictions or violations of privacy for those with other infections, such as chickenpox, measles, mumps, rubella, tuberculosis, pneumonia, or the flu, which are all very contagious & can be just as dangerous as COVID-19. So why should this virus, which has a 99% survival rate, be any different?

We cannot limit, prohibit and discriminate against those who choose to not get the vaccine because there are several reasons for their choices. Moral, philosophical, religious and medical reasons all should be respected and we have the right to not have to disclose this information or WHY at all.

Furthermore: If the ingredients in the vaccine would cause known harm to an individual, then they should not be forced to receive it, nor should they be discriminated against.

What if YOU, or your spouse, parent, child, had known risks against a vaccine, something that was out of their control, or have chosen other means to support their health & immune system...would you be okay with having their school or employer place mandates & discriminate against them? Would you find it acceptable that they couldn't attend public places or establishments, not for them, but for the sake of OTHERS safety and health?

What I do with my health and body, as for others, is MY own freedom and choice. Many in my community, family, friends and clients have been directly affected by these mandates & their security with their job and/or school is being threatened. I am appalled that businesses and establishments across the country have been mistreating their students, employees and patrons.

I am advocating for myself and on behalf of others, who are determined to have equal respect & choice for all, and we should not be punished for our private choices. House Bill 248 is necessary to protect the right for medical privacy, all health freedoms, and to fight discrimination against their personal and individualized decisions.

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

Sincerely,

Allison Bergstrom Occkial