

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 Amanda Crabtree, and I am a mother, Administrative Assistant and Respiratory Therapy student. I was required to work, in-person, every day throughout the lockdowns last year as my company was deemed "essential". The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I believe in medical freedom and body autonomy. I also believe that medical mandates, of any kind, undermine consent. Health decisions should be made by the individual, with any concerns answered by a trusted healthcare professional, not forced upon us by anyone, including employers, politicians, or schools.

With the hospitals mandating the COVID-19 vaccine for all employees, students, volunteers, contractors, etc., I will be forced into giving up my spot in the Respiratory Therapy program. I spent the last year completing prerequisites for the program, making the Dean's list each semester, while working full-time and homeschooling my 2 children. With a shortage in healthcare works across the nation, you would think I would have support, from my university and the hospitals in which my university partners with, to complete this program. Instead, I have been met with an ultimatum. Comply with the mandates or else. While I could try and seek an exemption, I do not believe I should have to. My deeply held religious beliefs should not have to be shared to keep me from being subjected to a medical procedure in which I do not wish to have.

Ohioans need this bill to pass, in its entirety, to protect our freedoms. Coercion is not consent. We are allowing employers and schools to coerce individuals, myself included. I should not have to discuss my vaccination

status with my employer, nor be subjected to harassment because of an educated decision I made about my health and wellbeing. Discrimination based off of vaccine status is happening all across the nation, and Ohio should be leading the way in saying it is not acceptable.

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Crabtree

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