

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 Nicholson and I am (a Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer for a small business and more importantly a mom of 2 girls) and the reason I support House Bill 248 is that although my family is vaccinated for the standard list. We choose to opt-out of some vaccines and medical treatments. This freedom should be extended to every Ohioan and we should not allow private or public businesses or companies to discriminate based on a medical decision that is both personal and private.

Even if the FDA should decide to approve the Covid shot I still feel at this point that we just don't have enough data for me to feel comfortable. Enough time has not passed to know the true outcome of this shot and I can not in good conscience allow my daughters to have something given to them that could potentially affect the ability for them to start a family should they choose to do so or even worse have an adverse reaction. We will not know the effects of this on fertility for many years. Furthermore, I find it alarming that we are seemingly ignoring the fact that MANY reports are coming in and located on VAERS showing that these treatments are causing substantial reactions and even death.

My family is overall healthy and we look at our health proactively doing things to keep our immune system and bodies in good condition to not rely on or require medical intervention. I don't see a push to get people proper vitamins, encourage exercise, prayer, and meditation. There are also several therapeutics for this illness that can be used and are also proven effective. I believe that God created us perfectly and designed our bodies and immune system in ways that we need to trust and not rely solely on science.

I did not submit testimony previously because honestly, I thought there was no way that Ohio would allow this to happen. Now that I'm seeing our frontline workers who all bravely worked the entire time before a shot was available and were hailed as heroes now being told that they will be fired it's beyond disgusting. Every person in the United States of America deserves to make their own choice. It is why we have the Constitution and protections in place. I urge all of you to strongly consider keeping the current exemptions in place and adding a protection that discrimination of ANY kind will not be accepted in our state.

I've lived here my entire life and always liked the fact that Ohio is made up of equal parts and we all live in harmony for the most part. Let's show everyone that we are and will always be a safe place regardless of your political party. I know myself and others are watching this closely and deciding if maybe it's time to move our families elsewhere so we know that our rights and freedoms remain protected.

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Nicholson

