

August 11, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248.

My name is Angela Kauffman and I am a registered nurse. The reason I support House Bill 248 is first, the ethical principle of autonomy. In nursing school, it is one of the biggest things we focus on that allows our patients the ability to make their own health decisions and not be forced into any type of medication or treatment that they do not believe is appropriate for them. Second, in return, I expect to be able to advocate for myself, as well, and make the medical and health decisions that I feel are right for myself. I do not feel that any other person should be making these decisions for me. Third, when it comes to my healthcare decisions, I become the patient. I then deserve the same autonomy and advocacy that I give to my patients. I have the same rights as an employee that a patient has, the right to decide what goes into my body and what does not.

I believe that, in the near future, if we continue with this Covid vaccine mandate, the people who will suffer the most will be the patients. There will not be enough staff to care for them. The next in line to suffer will be us, the employees, the healthcare workers who have the desire to care for these patients, but are unable to because we were given the unbearable task of choosing between our own health and rights as a human, and losing our job.

Thank you so much for this opportunity to provide my testimony on the need for House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Angela N. Kauffman, RN, BSN