

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 April LaRue and I have been a Registered Nurse since 2008. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because on December 18, 2020, I tested positive for COVID-19 after working on the Frontlines in hospitals and nursing homes for 9 months during the most crucial aspects of the “pandemic”

I watched people I loved test positive and suffer severe reactions from the disease, but never personally watched anyone die from the disease. I had personally seen people test positive for the COVID-19 virus, but were only hospitalized because they they were “high risk” due to their age or comorbidity factor and had no symptoms. I seen people that had been on hospice or actively dying due to comorbidities for close to a year prior to testing positive for COVID-19 and their death certificates read that they died of COVID-19.

Like I stated before, after being tested twice per week for several months, I tested positive for the COVID-19 virus on December 18, 2020. I had no symptoms of illness. I felt fine. No fever, body aches, runny nose, headache, cough or anything else that was listed under the massive balloon of possible COVID-19 symptoms. When my supervisor called me to tell me I had tested positive, for the virus, I self-quarantined as directed by my local health department. My family self-quarantined as directed by the local health department. Fortunately, I made it through the 10 day quarantine with no symptoms of illness. My immune system protected me.

I continued to work in the nursing home after my quarantine in the COVID-19 unit. I cared for many people that had tested positive for COVID-19 and still remained symptom-free. I cared for these people because I took a vow when I became a nurse to care for all those in need regardless of illness, age, sex, socioeconomic status, etc. I know my purpose in life is to care for people, even at my own risk of illness or death. I have faith. I believe that my God has a purpose for me. He has put me on this Earth for a reason. He has proved that in giving me a good immune system that has withstood the virus that has hurt or killed many others, He protected me. I know that the COVID-19 virus is real. I know it has affected countless people. But I also know that I have a God that will take me when he wants me and a

man-made vaccine cannot prevent that. My immune system done what it was supposed to and I was fortunate enough to have NO symptoms of a virus that has affected many.

By forcing me to be vaccinated against a virus that my body has already fought off, you take away my God-given ability to do what I was already born to do. The vaccine may be appropriate for some, but not all. This country was built on freedom of choice. I have made the choice that it is my body, my choice. By mandating a vaccine that many do not believe in or trust, it will do a severe disservice to the community because it will make many caring, qualified and compassionate health care providers leave a career field that is already lacking in appropriate coverage.

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

Sincerely,
April LaRue RN