

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 Araby Sexton and I am an employee of The Ohio State University Medical Center and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because the right to medical freedom is one of the most basic rights American citizens possess.

As someone who works in the healthcare field, I have a unique perspective about what goes on in a hospital and the choices with which patients are provided. We would never think to tell a patient to forgo what is best for them, take away their choice, because it could inconvenience or *possibly* harm another patient or community member. That what is right for them as a person should matter less than the peace of mind that could be afforded a total stranger. That would be absurd. Until now, apparently.

My specific position within OSUMC is one which I do from home, and have for the last 7 years. I have zero physical contact with patients, staff, coworkers or other parties. And I am not alone. Working from home was gaining momentum prior to Covid, but especially now it's something that millions of Americans are opting to do. A vaccine mandate would allow my employer to force me to receive an experimental "vaccine" under the pretense of keeping others safe, otherwise I could lose my livelihood, home and sense of normalcy. It's honestly quite surreal to me. The thought of a law requiring a free human being to be forced to have their bodies altered to maintain employment, especially in a setting where said human is quite literally not even physically in contact with other people or the facility they work for, is completely and totally unreal. I don't agree with a vaccine mandate for any person of any position, but allowing this mandate would cause overreach to an extent that is entirely unrealistic and unacceptable. It just does not make sense. This has been far more terrifying to me than any concern of being infected with Covid.

I truly and sincerely hope that people can stop and think about this from other perspectives. This is not a "one size fits all" policy. The damage this could do to our community could be irreparable.

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

Sincerely,

Araby Sexton