

Dear Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and the Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for allowing the submission of testimony on House Bill 248. As a public health professional, I support H.B. 248 and I urge you to support this critical bill as well.

Vaccine mandates violate fundamental human rights, notably the right to give prior, free, and informed consent for medical interventions. In any society, yet alone a free society, everyone should have complete power and control over their own bodies.

Should a business, a university, other entities be able to mandate a medical procedure for their employees, faculty, or others and then not pay for an injury should it happen? Legislation passed in 1986 left U.S. individuals with a striking absence of legal protections from vaccine injury/adverse events. Therefore, citizens have no recourse to recoup lost wages or pay for medical bills. Why expect people to take on all the risk of injury, lost wages, years of life loss, when vaccine manufacturers are free and clear from any liability? And especially when the chances of survival from Covid-19 is 98.23% for adults and even higher for children at 99.985%.

According to the latest immunological studies, the overall infection fatality rate (IFR) of Covid-19 in the general population is about 0.1% to 0.5% in most countries, which is most closely comparable to the medium influenza pandemics of 1936, 1957 and 1968. In fact, a recent study by Ioannidis (2021, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33768536/>) reported a U.S. IFR of 0.15% (note: the 2017-2018 flu season IFR was 0.14%). Fauci himself, in an editorial in New England Journal of Medicine (2020, <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMe2002387>) stated that “If one assumes that the number of asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic cases is several times as high as the number of reported cases, the case fatality rate may be considerably less than 1%. This suggests that the overall clinical consequences of Covid-19 may ultimately be more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza (which has a case fatality rate of approximately 0.1%) or a pandemic influenza (similar to those in 1957 and 1968) rather than a disease similar to SARS or MERS, which have had case fatality rates of 9 to 10% and 36%, respectively.”

Over the past few weeks, we’ve seen not only coercive measures used to convince individuals to be vaccinated but we’ve also seen an influx of mandates requiring workers, students, and others to be vaccinated to work, study, and/or participate in everyday life. This should be a red flag to all who value freedom and especially those in public health, a field that is guided by the ethical principles of personal freedom/autonomy, avoiding harm (non-maleficence), doing good (beneficence), and justice. These principles have guided my practice and teaching as a public health professional for the past 16+ years. It appears over the last few weeks these principles have been disregarded and ignored though they are the foundation of our ethics. Vaccine mandates violate these guiding principles, they violate our Constitutional rights, and they violate the Nuremberg Code, designed to ensure informed consent for any medical procedure upon humans.

Supporting H.B. 248 doesn’t mean that a business can’t make recommendations or that individuals won’t choose to be vaccinated. Any employee who would like to get vaccinated would have the liberty to do so. Just as the individual who chooses to opt out, there are individuals that will choose to be vaccinated. H.B. 248 would reinforce those rights.

Please support H.B. 248, a bill that supports the freedom to exercise one's fundamental human rights and rights that are protected by our Constitution.

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

Kind Regards,
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