

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 Bailey Oliver. I am a nursing student as well as employed as a patient care assistant at a local hospital. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because of a personal experience I endured regarding being forced to take certain vaccines if I want to be employed or continue my education. I have put in so much hard work already and have one year left. I should not have to choose to throw away all of my college education and choose another career field, when nursing is all I have ever wanted to do, because I want to keep the medical choice to decide what I put in my body.

First of all, I would like to say that I have always been a very healthy individual. I have worked for our local hospital for over a year now and not needed to be vaccinated and I have stayed healthy. Initially, I feel it is my choice to decide which medical procedures I wish to participate, especially, when it comes to injecting ingredients into my body. My body is not the property of the company that employs me. Secondly, this concerns me by the need for a company to know my personal medical conditions, and/or records, even if seen only by select members of the company. There has been no concern for my medical well-being during my shifts when being required to wear a mask, and the ill effects I've experienced. I am very concerned for the policy change in my employer requiring all employees to receive a vaccination or risk losing their employment.

I was forced to take the flu vaccine this past winter. I had a severe rash/hives all over my body. Thankfully after a couple of days of Benadryl I was feeling better. If I had this reaction to this, what might I have from this vaccine or any other at this point? When other people such as delivery persons, visitors, etc... could come and go freely without question of having had the flu or any other vaccine, why are we being forced to take them?

Frankly, I believe in health care privacy. I believe the vendors and others coming and going at the hospital, or any other business, should not be required to disclose their vaccination status to whomever requests it because of a business requirement or other reasons. We worry about discrimination in so many other areas of our lives and take steps to prevent or mitigate discrimination. We should take steps to do the same for those who cannot or choose not to get flu shots or any other type of vaccines. Ohioans should have the freedom to do what's medically best for them and not be discriminated against for doing so.

Healthcare privacy and freedom is important Protect Vaccine Choice: If employers are allowed to require this injection, people are then forced to choose between providing for their family or being used as a test subject for a medical procedure where the end results are still unknown. We must be allowed autonomy over our own body. Where there is risk, and there are documented side effects to this injection, there absolutely must be a choice.

Provide Legal Recourse for Violations: When/if an employer decides to go against this bill and threaten to require their employees to be injected, they must be met with appropriate legal ramifications. This bill supports that and in turn gives extra protection to employees, such as medical care for adverse reactions, recourse for unlawful termination, etc.

If House Bill 248 had been in place already, I could have had the freedom to decline the flu and any other vaccines and avoided unnecessary adverse reactions to medications

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

Sincerely,

*Bailey Oliver*