

August 12, 2021

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 Brent Schloneger, and I am professional musician music instructor.

I strongly support House Bill 248 because I believe that this legislation is about much, much more than an injection intended to prevent COVID-19. This legislation is about restoring and preserving freedom for the people of Ohio. If I would like to receive a medical treatment (e.g. a vaccine), and my doctor and I agree that the benefits outweigh the risks, then I should be free to do so as long as the treatment is not illegal. LIKEWISE, if I wish to decline a treatment, for any reason, then I strongly believe I should have the sovereign and unalienable right to do so. I believe the same right should exist for all Ohioans.

The current laws seem unable to protect Ohio's workers whose tyrannical employers have mandated unapproved and potentially dangerous injections, with the alternative being loss of employment. Even if the laws are adequate, and I am simply ignorant, the employers have more money, more lawyers, and are not afraid to ignore the law, knowing that their money and legal team will be able to exhaust the individual until that individual can no longer fight.

The only solution to set things right is to prohibit any person, public official or employee, public agency, state agency, political subdivision, school, child day-care center, nursing home, residential care facility, health care provider, insurer, institution, or employer from attempting to force a treatment (including specifically any and all vaccines, and especially unapproved treatments such as the COVID-19 injection) on not only myself, but on anyone in the state of Ohio. I find it incomprehensible that a person at a desk at the CDC, WHO, NIH, NIAID, the Ohio Department of Health, or even my local county Department of Health should presume to know what is the best medical path for me, much less be able to order or mandate a particular treatment. One's medical journey and treatment when necessary should only be determined by an individual in cooperation with that individual's health care provider.

In addition, allowing the above named people and entities to mandate medical matters for the citizens of Ohio only paves the way for discriminatory and unconscionable practices such as "vaccine passports." These ideas are the medical and modern-day version of the yellow badge and yellow star which were used to mark Jewish people in the late 1930s and early 1940s in Nazi-led territories. We dare not go there; to do so leads down a dark and destructive path that can only lead to the end of freedom in this state and in this country.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." – Ronald Reagan, October 27, 1964

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

Sincerely,

Brent Schloneger