

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 Brianne Markley and I am mother of three girls, one of which was harmed by a vaccine. I am not here to spew the evils of vaccines. I am writing to hopefully insert some logic into our representatives who are making medical decisions on my behalf.

It's no secret that vaccines can cause harm. Millions of dollars have been paid through the vaccine court to injured recipients. It's also no secret that vaccines help our bodies produce antibodies to specific viruses and have helped many people. I'm asking you to please acknowledge the fact that people are different. Last year my husband and I started drinking celery juice in the mornings to better our health. Do you know what happened? I thrived and felt energized and ready to go for the day after drinking it. My husband on the other hand noticed digestion problems and quickly felt better as soon as he stopped drinking it. Celery. A very common food, but produced two different results.

If scientists found that peanut oil was able to somehow thwart covid by injecting small amounts of it into people, that would be quite an amazing discovery. But what might happen if businesses or the government mandated that all people must now be injected with peanut oil to be saved from a virus? A lot of people with allergies to peanuts would end up dying. Or what if the same discovery found that proteins in gluten can help cure covid? Would a mandate for everyone to eat gluten be the correct course of action? Of course not. Again, certain people in the population would be severely harmed because they might have celiac disease. What about penicillin or other drugs? Could our state legislature honestly allow mandates on pharmaceutical drugs knowing there are individuals with severe allergies to those drugs?

So now we're faced with a brand new type of vaccine, which isn't even a vaccine at all, but genetically modified gene therapy. The CDC has stated publicly that they do not know if this type of vaccine prevents transmission. Let me state that again. This type of vaccine does not prevent transmission. A recently released Stanford Study confirms that fact. The CDC Director just came out today (today!) that the vaccine does not prevent transmission. That means that even if you were to take the vaccine, you could still pass the virus onto me. What this means then, is businesses and governmental entities are only mandating something that will protect my own health. That's equivalent to forcing people to take vitamins every day. It only affects the person taking it. Thus no herd immunity will ever be reached.

Could we reverse the idea of a mandate? What if certain businesses mandated that none of their employees get the vaccine? Let's say the President of a company received the vaccine and had a bad reaction to it. He then decides not to allow anyone in his company to get the vaccine. Would that be fair to those who really would benefit from taking it? Of course not. He would be doing them a dis-service by not allowing them to get it. Would the government stand by and let that happen?

I was really disheartened when I saw the reaction to Dr. Sherri Tenpenny's testimony in the media. I am not for or against her. But her arguments derailed the true point of this legislation. Freedom to make our own medical decisions. Even if vaccines had no side effects, and were 100% safe for everyone, I still would not support forcing people take them. There are many ways to skin a cat as the saying goes. And there is more than one way to fight covid. Hundreds of thousands of people have recovered successfully. Why are people being stripped of the freedom to make that decision for themselves? They're being stripped of that freedom from someone who has never met them, knows nothing about them or their medical history, and will not be liable if something goes wrong.

Why is natural immunity being dismissed so quickly among scientists? In the past, natural immunity trumped everything. Why the push for a genetically modified vaccine? It makes no sense. Why should someone who has recovered be forced to take a vaccine that will override their natural antibodies? Shouldn't these people have a choice in how they take care of their bodies after they've recovered?

More importantly, have scientists ever been wrong in the past? Have they ever been 100% sure about something, only to later find out they were wrong? A great article in Scientific America hits that point exactly: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/if-you-say-science-is-right-youre-wrong/> Science is consistently evolving as we observe the world around us. Some people are skeptics and choose to sit back and take the wait and see approach. Some people are eager to dive in and test the waters themselves. Neither of those people are good or bad, wrong or right. They are just different. And we need all types of people to make this world work. But to sit and point fingers at someone who chooses a different path than you is downright arrogant.

I'm so saddened by the pride that is rampant in this country and the lack of humility to acknowledge that there is more than one way to fight this virus. People are so scared to be wrong. What are we trying to prove? That we're better than others? Being a good leader means getting down to the faces of those you lead. It means learning about them, what affects them, and how you can serve better. It means acknowledging that they are capable human beings and can decide what is right for their families.

If vaccines are so wonderful, people would not be having any reactions to them. But the truth is, there will always be reactions to them. Because people are different. There will never be a one size fits all medical model for humans. I respect those that choose to take it. I also respect those that choose not to. Why? Because they're grown-ups capable of making their own decisions. If they want my opinion, they'll ask for it. But if they don't, my responsibility is to be respectful of their decisions.

Is it possible to restore unity in our state? It won't happen through mandates. It will only happen with mutual respect. Forcing people to be injected will not create respect. In fact, it will do the opposite. This whole vaccine saga is polarizing our country more and more, which is fueled by the media every second of every day.

It all boils down very simply. People's bodies belong to them. Not to someone who has never met them. Everybody has different reactions to different things. One size fits all mandates will always cause harm to some people. Nothing should ever be forced on someone. When the science lines up, people will choose the best path for them.

People are being told that if they do not agree to take the vaccine, they will be fired. That's called blackmail. If you don't do what I want you to do, I'm going to make your life miserable. Are we really that childish? Either the vaccine works, or it doesn't. If someone is vaccinated, then they should believe that vaccine works. It doesn't matter if they are around an unvaccinated person or not. They chose the vaccine that protects them, right? Why on earth did they get it then if they don't believe it protects them? It makes no logical sense. If you choose to vaccinate, my choice not to should have zero relevance to you. You are protected.

Discrimination is rampant today. Now, we are discriminating people based on their medical history. We are segregating, firing, and belittling workers for their own personal medical decisions. It grieves me what kind of segregation our children will have to endure because of this. The adults in their lives are setting an absolutely horrible example of how to treat others. What are our actions teaching them? Treat people that don't agree with you like dirt, and force them to do what you want. I don't know about you, but I would never allow that in my house.

Please, acknowledge that everyone is different and everyone reacts differently to medicine. Passing House Bill 248 would allow people the freedom to make their own medical decisions, free from blackmail, coercion, guilt, or intimidation.

Thank you for taking the time to read my opinion on this matter.

Brianne Markley