

August 18, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written proponent testimony on House Bill 248.

My name is Calandria Jewett and I am a mom of two small children and an Ohio Licensed Independent Social Worker in Montgomery County. I am writing to urge you to vote yes on House Bill 248.

It is my duty as a mother and public service provider to protect the most vulnerable and speak for those who are silenced. I am writing today as a concerned citizen and to advocate for bodily autonomy and medical freedom. I support House Bill 248 for the following reasons:

- First of all, I want to note that I am for vaccines. Vaccinations have made an enormous improvement on worldwide health but that is not what this is about. This is about governmental tyranny versus bodily autonomy and personal freedom. Mandating or coercing someone into accepting a vaccine by threatening discrimination is immoral and unethical. It violates individual autonomy and informed consent. If we want people to accept the COVID-19 vaccine, we must continue research, inform and educate; but it must remain an individual decision between a patient and a doctor, and not mandated by governmental entities.
- My children's safety. The currently available COVID-19 vaccines are experimental and not FDA approved, nor is there any liability for unintended injury. We do not know the long-term effects of these vaccines, not to mention the vast amount of injuries and deaths already sustained. As of August 16, 2021, according to the CDC's website, "VAERS received 6,789 reports of death (0.0019%) among people who received a COVID-19 vaccine." That may be a small percentage of vaccine recipients but those are valuable human lives, and this number continues to grow. This is an experimental vaccine, with no longitudinal research available, which continues to be recommended for younger and younger children, even though, there is clear research that shows the virus itself has little effect on youth. Can you tell me with any level of *certainty* that these experimental vaccines won't have an adverse impact on my children's developing bodies? When there is risk, there must always be a choice.
- I work at a hospital and the COVID-19 vaccine is currently mandatory for any staff that that comes into contact with patients. They are accepting exemptions with appropriate verification, but *if* your exemption is approved, you must declare the exemption and acknowledge the requirement to indefinitely wear a face mask, and submit for regular COVID-19 testing. There is no healthcare privacy in this decision and these requirements pave the path for continual coercive vaccines and discrimination for those who choose not to get it. It is a dangerous slope that threatens our freedom. Will Ohio do better for it's people? Coercion and discrimination is not medical freedom. I will say it again, when there is risk, there must always be a choice.

In conclusion, I am grateful for the opportunity to express my views and advocate for medical freedom. Ohio needs legislation that would support and protect an individual's right to informed consent. Please vote yes on House Bill 248 to protect the citizens of Ohio and their right for medical choice and healthcare privacy.

Sincerely,
Calandria Jewett, LISW-S