

August 9, 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 the House Bill 248.

My name is Christine Kenning and I am a registered nurse in the state of Ohio and the reason I support House Bill 248 is because every American should have the freedom to choose their own personal healthcare decisions. I have been a nurse since 2009. For those twelve years, I have worked the frontlines. I have taken care of patients regardless of their medical history and vaccination status. I provided direct patient care during Swine Flu, MERS, Ebola, Zika and the Coronavirus. I was an essential frontline worked during the Coronavirus. When we were not provided appropriate PPE equipment or correct information on the disease, I still showed up every day to work, putting my own health on the line. I took care of any patient that walked in the door regardless if they were positive or negative. No care was turned down and nor any nurses turned away. Now nurses and healthcare workers are being fired for making a personal healthcare choice. I have multiple reasons as to why I refuse to receive an experimental injection, one that has no long term studies. I should not be mandated in order to keep my livelihood, based on getting an injection. To this day I take care of patients who do not have the vaccination, I take care of patients who have no immunizations at all, and I provide them all with the same amazing care as any other patient. Therefore my own healthcare choice should be accepted as well. I also feel that the FLU shot which has been mandated over the last several years is unfair as well for all employees at my institution. Data has shown that the flu rates have not decreased through the years. I do not feel that I should have to get injected year after year against my will to keep a job. People's rights, especially healthcare workers is getting stripped away more and more. Every American, regardless of their job, should have the right to choose their personal medical decisions.

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

Sincerely,

Christine Kenning RN