

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 Danielle Wright and I am an Office Manager at a church here in Columbus. I support House Bill 248 for a myriad of different reasons.

First, I support the bill for my own person health. I was born with cerebral palsy and have had years of physical and occupational therapy through the public school system. Because of these therapies that I was able to have for well on 16 years of my life, you wouldn't really be able to notice that I have cerebral palsy by a cursory glance. I know what I physically can or can not do, realizing that I do have some physical limitations.

I say all that to preface my reasons for supporting House Bill 248. In late 2016 I was ill and went to my family doctor. I was prescribed penicillin. Penicillin was first administered in 1942 and approved by the FDA in 1944. My life has been completely altered from this medication. I now have dermatographia is a condition also known as skin writing. When people who have dermatographia lightly scratch their skin, the scratches redden into a raised wheal similar to hives. These marks usually disappear within 30 minutes. I take medication every day for this, and if I do not, I break out in hives. This is a side effect of taking penicillin, and there is no cure. Because of the rare side effect that I experienced through a long-standing drug as well as reactions I have experienced by other medication, I no longer trust or want any medication when I am sick, relying mostly on preventive measures such as vitamins and supplements.

I had covid. I recovered from covid at home and it was similar to the flu. I took zinc, vitamin C, and vitamin D. Since recovering from covid, I have natural immunity. The immune system creates antibodies and natural immune response is so much higher than immunity from a vaccine. A vaccine will only cover one of the nodes of the "crown" of the coronavirus, but natural immunity covers them all. Natural immunity is not being discussed, anywhere. My question is why?

When the pandemic began last year, those who said that people would eventually need to show "papers" to enter a business, a restaurant, or other locations were scoffed at. They were ridiculed. It could never go that far. Now, that is a reality. Not just in New York City, or Los Angeles, but right here in Ohio people are being discriminated against. Natural immunity is not being considered anywhere. Yesterday, PromoWest locations such as Express Live and Newport Music Hall is requiring vaccination proof or a negative test to attend events.

Segregation of the population in this country is a part of our past. But it was a different kind of segregation, based on race. The Supreme Court of the United States ruled in *Brown v the Board of Education* that “separate but equal has no place” and that there must be equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the 14th Amendment. Our 14th Amendment was written after the Civil War and it states in Section 1: No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Brown v Board of Education and the 14th Amendment ensure that everyone has equal protection under the law. Under the *Brown* decision, if the division of vaccinated and unvaccinated is allowed to continue then there must be equal facilities for both. That would mean, grocery stores, theaters, restaurants, doctors, clothing stores, pet stores. There must be the exact same stores with the exact same service for both vaccinated and unvaccinated. There must be airports and flights for the unvaccinated and the vaccinated to the same locations. There must be libraries, parks, apartments, gyms all of the exact same caliber and staffed the same for each location. It is what the law calls for. It is not equal protection under the law or separate but equal to deprive people the ability to shop in a store (by requiring carside service) or delivery.

There is a case law on vaccination as well. *Doe v Rumsfeld* which resulted in the permanent injunction against the U.S. Government that declared the anthrax vaccine was experimental and prohibited its mandatory use. Just as the anthrax vaccine was under the EUA, so too is the Covid vaccine. The anthrax vaccine was once mandatory for active service members, even though it was under an EUA. The Covid vaccine is also being mandated and is under an EUA. It may become FDA approved, but the precedent in case law has already been set.

Without equal protection under the law, we would have a very different country right now. But we are creeping back toward division. Be it masks, vaccination, or vaccination passports, they all divide the country. We have seen that. Please don't allow the division to continue. The law of the United States established through the Constitution, Bill of Rights, the 14th Amendment, and *Brown v Board of Education*, and many others have established that we life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for ALL.

Please allow me and my fellow Ohioans the ability to make our own personal health decisions. I, not the government or any business, know what is best for my health. Especially considering that I have been injured, not by a vaccine, but from a long-standing FDA approved medicine. I will not undergo testing

to see if I have an illness from that I have already recovered from to attend an event. We need to be discussing natural immunity and therapeutics, and general overall health, rather than being scared of your neighbor or work colleague when the recovery rate for all age groups is over 90%.

We have unalienable rights, which means they cannot be taken away. We must stride boldly into the unknown future while keeping these rights intact. Abraham Lincoln said it best in his Gettysburg Address: that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

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

Please vote YES on House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Danielle Wright