

*Email to [rep62@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep62@ohiohouse.gov)*

August 19, 2021

Rep. Scott Lipps  
Health Committee Chairman  
Ohio House of Representatives

**Re: Support of HB248**

Dear Chairman Lipps:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248.

My name is Daniel Newman and I am a Registered Nurse, employed as a surgical nurse for the past 15 years at Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, OH. This has been a very rewarding career for me as I diligently strive to serve patients through many healthcare crises. Never have I tried to talk a patient out of any healthcare decisions, but have honored their right as not only an Ohio resident, but also as a United States citizen, to make their own healthcare directive. There are laws in effect which enforce these directives, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") with a Final Security Rule sent out in February 2003 by the Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") establishing national standards to protect individuals' personal health information.

But now in the State of Ohio, employers, schools, daycares, nursing homes, etc. want to infringe upon one's protected healthcare rights by mandating a vaccine that has not been thoroughly evaluated/tested and, further, requiring public proof of vaccination. What's more, the Federal Drug Administration ("FDA") may accelerate approval of the current emergency use authorized COVID-19 vaccines without exhaustive testing that would optimize the safety and efficacy for all vaccine recipients. This is unacceptable from a research and medical perspective. By mandating a vaccine, you effectively take away the rights of all Ohio citizens to make their own healthcare decisions which are guaranteed in the Ohio Constitution.

As we are all aware, the year 2020 was a difficult time with the rise of COVID-19. At my workplace, I was re-assigned from the surgery department to working 12-hour shifts in the intensive care and step-down units, as well as the hospital's COVID emergency entrance. The first 6 weeks of this assignment was with surgical masks only ... N-95 masks were not initially allowed but came later. Then, we had to re-use the N-95 masks up to a week due to a supply shortage. Working through these long hours with minimal personal protection equipment, I persevered by challenging myself to do my best for every patient I came in contact with. Never once did I call off but requested more shifts hoping to help others. After taking care of so many sick patients, never receiving any vaccines or preventative medications, I never suffered from COVID-19 symptoms and always tested negative for the virus. I don't feel the necessity for a mandated vaccine and will remain a conscientious objector.

From my perspective, **unconscionable** is (1) mandating a vaccine hoping to eradicate a virus with an estimated recovery rate of over 99%, and (2) recklessly mandating a vaccine that has not been thoroughly tested and vetted for short and long-term side effects. I have researched reported short-

term side effects, which include among other, Bell's Palsy, Guillian-Barre' Syndrome, myocarditis, miscarriage and even death. Unacceptable to me and I hope it is unacceptable to you.

I am, therefore, as a lifetime resident of the great State of Ohio requesting that the members of the House of Representatives and Senate support and pass House Bill 248 without any amendments so that I can continue in good conscience to serve the citizens of Ohio without fear of losing my job as a Registered Nurse if vaccinations are to be mandated.

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

Sincerely,



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cc: Rep. Jennifer Gross (via email to [rep52@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep52@ohiohouse.gov))  
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