

## Proponent Testimony for House Bill 248

Ohio House Health Committee

August 17, 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 House Bill 248.

My name is Debra Testen, and I am a citizen and tax payer of Perrysburg Ohio, advocating for Ohioan's right to choose or refuse any medical treatment or procedure, including vaccination. I am writing today to testify in support of Ohio House Bill 248.

For years healthcare workers have been required by their employers to subscribe to a mandatory vaccination program against their wishes. Now the general public faces the same with Covid-19 vaccines becoming mandated in their places of employment, as a requirement to attend school, and even as a prerequisite to participate in society.

This bill is about personal liberty. It's about maintaining our choice, and your choice to direct your own healthcare decisions. Yes, this bill affects you also! Ponder for a minute. Maybe you have no issue receiving the flu vaccine, and maybe you were even ok with receiving one of the Covid-19 vaccines. But how would you feel about the state, or an employer, or a university, or a retailer requiring you to remain up-to-date on all vaccinations on the CDC adult vaccine schedule? What about all future "pandemic" vaccines? Maybe there will be a time in the future that you'd like to decline one? Or what about the hundreds of vaccines that are currently in development? If they all come to market, would you like to be

required to receive all of those? And even if you do, is it your honest position that you should have the right to impose that on others?

HB 248 is about liberty, individual healthcare privacy, and personal choice in healthcare decisions. Either you believe in these things completely or not at all.

House bill 248 is very important to me. I believe that Ohioans should have ultimate authority over their medical decisions, and a right to maintain privacy regarding those decisions. With the current climate of employers mandating Covid vaccines, businesses implementing vaccine passports, and those who decline either facing discrimination, I believe this bill is more urgent than any other bill the legislature is currently hearing.

Please ensure that HB 248 is heard and PASSED promptly.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for, and urgency of HB248.

Sincerely,

Debra Testen, 1804 Lexington Drive, Perrysburg, OH 43551