

Dear Chairman Lipps and Health Committee,

My name is Dennis Thomas and I'm the President of two Ohio companies employing over 270 employees. I'm writing to you in support of HB248.

I'm sure you'll hear plenty of testimony about the amount of side effects and deaths being reported via VAERS, the lack of efficacy of the vaccine (Israel and other highly vaccinated breakthrough cases), the lack of informed consent, the looming potential for an ADE disaster, MRNA's failures in animal studies, health and privacy issues, mutant strains emerging due to the vaccinated vs. unvaccinated, and strong convictions of the religious community. However, while I am willing to dig into these matters, I want to be respectful of your time and talk about something even less political – the economy.

There is a current labor shortage in the United States and more importantly Ohio. Regardless of how it's spun, there is a surge of inflation. Our manufacturing division has had to raise prices 3x's in 2021 to keep up with rising prices from steel mills. Energy costs have continued to rise. We have had to raise employee wages to remain competitive. Everywhere I travel I see signs saying now hiring with \$500-\$1000 bonuses. Some employers are paying bonuses bi-weekly if you show up on time and work 40 hours per week. This is all fine, but my point is it's a very challenging time to keep and maintain an engaged workforce. If you ask CEO's what their #1 concern is about their business, they will say staffing and people (Vistage CEO Index Survey).

I feel HB248 is extremely important – not just for medical freedom and personal choice. My larger concern is that if states, employers, and/or other federal agencies push a mandated vaccine, there is a percent of our workforce that will simply quit. Most remain quiet on this topic because our world has become extremely politicized and cancel culture reigns supreme. But, pushing a mandate will, in my estimates after talking to some of our employees, cause 15% of the workforce of the State of Ohio just to quit. I'm likely underestimating this total. My question to you is what happens to the economy? It grinds to a halt. Everything locks up. When supply chains and commerce stop functioning what happens then? You will be setting up our State for a humanitarian disaster of which the likes have never been seen. I wish I was being hyperbolic. But, consider the number of people on government assistance, living paycheck to paycheck, and who solely rely on JIT (just in time) supply chain technology for their existence – it is the largest it has ever been in the history of mankind. Without the proper amount of labor, everything ceases to function.

Polling strongly suggests that the people who want to get a vaccine have already gotten the vaccine and those that remain skeptical have good reasons (See Carnegie Mellon & Pittsburgh Univ. Studies). Sure, you may be able to persuade some to get a vaccine, but I would caution this. There are going to be legal ramifications regarding informed consent, who is responsible for short and long-term side effects, and a complete lack of precedent on the matter. Someone, be it at the private or state level, will be paying lawyers a lot of money to set precedent and argue this matter.

Please strongly consider supporting HB248. Secure medical freedoms for Ohioans and more importantly, in my opinion, prevent what would be an economical disaster from occurring.

Sincerely,

Dennis Thomas