

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.

I am a scientist and board-certified medical professional, and I can no longer remain silent. Every day, I read another story in the news about a hospital, employer or school mandating the COVID-19 shots. Notice I call them shots, because it would be remiss to call them vaccines. Per the CDC and other health experts, they do not prevent infection or transmission. This blatant violation of human rights and medical ethics is deeply disturbing, and it cannot be allowed.

There are a multitude of reasons why forced vaccination is wrong, but I would like to focus on just one aspect—informed consent. The American Medical Association (AMA) states, “Informed consent to medical treatment is fundamental in both ethics and law. Patients have the right to receive information and ask questions about recommended treatments so they can make well-considered decisions about care.”¹

Furthermore, absent such consent, “surgery becomes stabbing, chemotherapy becomes poisoning, and urological examinations become sexual assault. Nor is the defense of good intentions a sufficient excusing factor. The consent of the patient is recognized in the law as essential, and the provision of unwanted medical care is not excused by the benevolent intentions of the provider.”^{2,3}

“Informed consent is both an ethical and legal obligation of medical practitioners in the US and originates from the patient's right to direct what happens to their body.”⁴

Informed consent is a basic tenet in medicine, yet it is being disregarded on a daily basis. The businesses and schools who are forcing the COVID-19 shots may be ignorant, and simply not aware of the concept of informed consent, but ignorance is no excuse. What I find deeply troubling is that hospitals and physicians—people who should know better— are forcing and bullying people into taking these injections. And let’s be clear, they *are* forcing it. When an employee is given the “choice” between taking the shots or losing their job, and the ability to put food on the table, it’s really no choice at all. Informed consent given under duress is not valid. Opponents will say, “if you don’t like it quit”, or “just find another job.” That’s all well and good, until your new employer mandates the shots, too. No, that’s not acceptable. This must not be allowed to happen.

I find it extremely disturbing that schools, corporations, healthcare organizations and the government are trampling on our rights as Americans, and more importantly, as human beings. Refusal to comply means social shunning, losing one’s job, losing access to social activities, and worst of all, it means people will be discriminated against simply because they chose to take personal responsibility for their own health.

America is the land of the free, the home of the brave. Let's start acting like it. People should always have the right to make an informed choice when it comes to their medical care. I'm writing today to express my strong and unyielding support for HB 248. Thank you for introducing this common-sense legislation and it's my sincere hope that it becomes law. Let us set an example for the nation, and show that the great state of Ohio will not stand for tyranny, discrimination or oppression.

Respectfully,

Eric Tischler

References

1. <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/ethics/informed-consent>
2. <http://psychrights.org/articles/jgehppv9no2.pdf>
3. Hull,R.(2002).Thealchemyofinformedconsent.TheJOfClinicalErhics,13(1),63-65
4. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK430827/>