

August 19, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee

House Bill 248- Vaccine and Anti-discrimination Act

Date of Hearing: August 24

Room 313, Overflow room at 11:00 AM

### **IN SUPPORT OF HB248**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248. My name is Ian Mertens, and I am a Registered Nurse for 15 years with advanced certification in Palliative care. I am the on-call emergency night nurse for approximately 450 patients for both home health and hospice for almost 10 years in 9 counties (Henry, Wood, Sandusky, Hancock, Putnam, Allen, Wyandotte, Seneca, and Hardin).

**I am testifying for the favor of bill 248** as mandate will cripple the already overtaxed home health and hospice workforce and the discrimination infringes on my health rights. Furthermore, I believe this experimental gene-therapy drug will have a negative effect on my strong immune system and it goes strongly against my religious beliefs.

Myself, and about of my colleagues, would rather be dismissed then to succumb to a medical mandate of this experimental drug. This will severely negatively affect the emergency care of approximately 450 patients we serve at night. We are already working with a skeleton crew working overtime and trying to hire. This mandate will cripple our workforce to the point that no amount of overtime will be able to cover the job openings we will have. During a good job-market conditions, it takes on average 10 months to fill a specialty night position. The current market conditions are very poor and even with a \$5,000 sign-on bonus with are not getting applicants.

In nursing school, I was taught that we have the rights to make our own medical decision(Otomomy) and that our medical history will be secure(Privacy). Many the rules of Nuremberg Code, Ohio board of Nursing, HIPPA etc. have been disregarded and we are being coerced to take this experimental drug against our will and disclose our medical records to the public with a vaccine passport. At my current place of employment during the month of July through August, we received multiple emails a week requesting our "COVID Vaccine status" or encouraging taking this experimental drug. Many facilities we serve have already required their employees to have the Jab or be fired (Sunrise and Brookdale) and as of today, President Biden mandated all nursing home staff to receive it. Even prior to this mandate, the Hilty Home called our company (July 2021) requesting the status of my "Vaccination" because I visited a client there. Furthermore, there is discussion about raising our insurance rates to as much as an extra \$50 per month as coercion to take the Jab, although the data does not support the increased illness or recovery rate in 95% of the population.

My current immune system got me through my 15 years of nursing with 3 days or less in paid sick days annually. This Non-FDA approved experimental gene-therapy drug has not been tested over time, both the inventor of the mRNA therapeutics, Dr. Robert Malone, and the inventor of the PCR test (only high-risk patient may need it), Dr. Kary Mullis, Nobel peace prize microbiologist (can't differentiate common Flu to the COVID virus) are against a mandate of this COVID Vaccine stating the data does not support merit of it's widespread use. Ivermectin and HCQ has been proven effective for COVID in multiple peer review publications but has been suppressed by big pharma because the drug patents have expired, and generics can be made for pennies. I am not going to be an experiment for the Gene-altering drug to override my God given immunity.

I am a strong Pro-life Christian and vegan, and this experimental drug was created and made with aborted human fetal cells which it goes strongly against my beliefs. I believe that my body is a temple for the Holy Ghost (1 Cor 19-20) and I will not have that in my body and believe that "whatever therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Cor 10-31), furthermore. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thes 5:23)

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

Sincerely,

Ian Mertens, RN-CHPN

