

August 17, 2021

Dear 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 James Meyer, I am a husband, and father to three children and currently work in management with an engineering background. I understand the seriousness of these considerations as a great family friend died from Covid last month. However, the reason I support House Bill 248 is because the free exercise clause of the US Constitution's First Amendment requires all Ohioans should have ultimate authority over their medical decisions and a right to maintain privacy regarding their decisions.

I believe that immunization is a personal choice for all Ohio citizens, however, there are actors making significant threats against our personal freedom to try to push us into making a decision against our will by planning/executing repercussions in the public and private arena. Companies, airlines, and hospitals are trying to make vaccination status a condition of employment, entry into events, and travel. They are attempting to penalize the unvaccinated into submission to receive the covid vaccine. I am personally impacted by these policies and personally know people who have buckled to the immense pressure. I support those who freely choose to become vaccinated but those who choose not to receive "the jab" should be allowed to participate as any other citizen in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We cannot allow this tyranny to overcome Ohio citizens God-given freedom of self-determination in this regard.

This discrimination would not be accepted if people were told that they could not work at this business or enter this building or ride on this plane because of their race, color, or creed. What makes your vaccinated status any different? Statements like "you don't have to get it, but we protect the rights of businesses to deny sale or service to people who don't" is blatant discrimination. The civil rights movements fought against precisely this kind of discrimination.

Many Ohioans already have natural immunity. Given the great number of cases we had last year, we have a great number of Ohioans that have as good or better immunity than they would have from the vaccine. Those with natural immunity are more protected against the Covid variants as well. We know this from the many covid tests and blood tests that show the antibodies to the virus. Plus, individuals with natural immunity are more susceptible(4-5x) to a vaccine adverse reaction. Our natural immunity is robust and long lasting and there is no need to take on the risk of a vaccine.

Taking the COVID-19 vaccine is a significant risk. As of today, the VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System) database states that in the US we have had: 12,791 deaths, 16,044 permanently disabled, 5,590 heart attacks, 4,371

myocarditis/pericarditis, 1505 miscarriages. It is estimated by many experts that there is significant under reporting to VAERS database. A 2011 report by Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Inc. for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) stated that fewer than one percent of all vaccine adverse events are reported to the government. There is no evidence of better reporting to VAERS for Covid-19 and there is no long-term data on this vaccine.

Many Ohioans take moral issue with the use of fetal tissue in the testing or manufacture of the vaccine. As a devout Catholic Christian, each one of us has a moral obligation and duty to be informed and follow their conscience. When we consider that the vaccine does not give any guarantee of efficacy but rather can induce serious side effects. All current Covid-19 vaccines have been produced starting from cells taken from aborted fetuses or used the HEK293 aborted fetal cell line in research and lab testing, and therefore are absolutely irreconcilable with Catholic morality. Highly effective medical treatments using hyper-immune plasma or other alternative protocols are available to treat COVID-19 infection. This brings us to an informed judgement and obligates us to refuse certain medical products including the current COVID-19 vaccines.

This HB248 bill will provide the protection to Ohio citizens against vaccine related discrimination. Opposition to this bill would allow the tyranny to rule and change this great state of Ohio to a harbor for Marxist control of our medical freedom. Without the exemption provisions this bill provides, the notion of a vaccine passport will lead to a class system in Ohio where segregation and prejudice will flourish.

People who refuse a vaccine typically are well-informed and highly researched individuals who know why and how they got to that position. We cannot push our personal responsibility on the CDC or any other entity. We need you to protect our right and our freedom to make an informed decision on a vaccine by properly weighing the risk for ourselves and our family's situation.

Please ensure that HB248 has an emergency provision, is heard, and PASSED promptly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Meyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'M'.

James Meyer