

## **Witness Proponent Testimony of Janelle Knisel for HB248**

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 Janelle Knisel and I am an Accounting Office Assistant. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because all Americans and Ohioans need to have their right to choose for themselves preserved. Americans and Ohioans, more specifically, deserve the right to choose getting medical treatment done to themselves, such as vaccination, or not. Not only is the right to choose of utmost importance, it is of complete importance and urgency that they be able to make these choices and not receive discrimination for doing so. Every single Ohioan and American deserves the right to not be discriminated against in any store, workplace or other establishments, simply because they exercised their right to choose for themselves.

Our country, that I love dearly, is terribly divided. Mandating medical treatments and devices and discriminating against those who have decided against participating in said medical treatments and devices will only make things more and more divided. No one should be treated less than human for governing their body the way they see fit.

I do not want to have to choose between my job and access to goods like groceries, and getting a medical treatment I do not want done to my person. I want to be able to go to the grocery store with ease, knowing I will be treated fairly like anyone else, and be able to get my food and medicine in order to live without denial or discrimination. I want to be able to work wherever I may choose, and not be denied or discriminated against because I did not receive a Covid-19 vaccination.

The reasoning for my concern is very personal. I have had my own family be discriminated against in their job as a hairstylist. Clients were nearly refusing to sit down to get their haircut because my family member was to be touching the client's person in order to receive a haircut. Shift after shift my family member endured this discrimination and it cause great disruption in their life. If there is something that would cause vaccination, masks or tests to be mandated, this would make life even more divisive. Currently my own employer has not mandated vaccination, masks or tests but I and about forty percent of my coworkers are constantly worrying that we will be subject to our boss's whims if they should try to mandate anything. We love our jobs and we don't want to go hungry for the sake of choosing to not do things we do not consent to having done.

Those who wish to participate in wearing masks, getting tests done or vaccinating themselves should have the choice to do those things just as others have the right to choose not to. No matter the reasoning, it is everyone's choice what they do with their body, and no one should be treated with discrimination for asserting their God given unalienable rights.

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

Sincerely, Janelle Knisel