

Jeffrey Simon
2470 Chicory Trail S., Cedarville, OH 45314
859-620-9501, refractedsound@gmail.com

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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 Jeff Simon and I am an Associate Professor at a university in Ohio as well as a father. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I believe in every individual's right to choose whether or not they take a COVID-19 vaccine (or any vaccine). I am not against vaccines in general, but I believe an individual's choice is very important. I believe they have a right to not be discriminated against based on any vaccine status. I also believe that my employer should not be able to request my vaccine status which could allow for said discrimination (or even unfair advantage). I believe that businesses who wish to not mandate or request status of vaccination should have legal protection of those choices. I think that this bill is important now and for future similar case studies. We are setting precedents in this state and nation that will have long-lasting implications.

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

Sincerely,

Jeff Simon

