

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 Jena Schaeff and I am a stay at home mother of twins. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I believe in medical freedom. While I am currently a stay at home mother, I fear that I will not be able to return to the workforce once my children begin school, due to employer mandates of the COVID-19 vaccine.

I have chosen what I believe is right for me at this time. I am thankful I have that right and the freedom to choose, however, it is quickly being taken away. Please let me be clear, I am not anti-vaccine. I fully support anyone and their right to get any vaccines they feel are necessary for their personal health. I have friends and family that have received the COVID-19 vaccine and I fully support them in their decisions to do so.

I too am very thankful for the science of vaccines. My twins were born extremely premature and with health concerns, but were able to be protected because of vaccines. Our family understands the risks the immunocompromised face because for the first two years of my twins lives we had to be extremely cautious. We stayed home most of the time and took all the safety precautions we felt were necessary to keep them safe. Again, this was our decision to make and we did so because we did not expect the rest of society to comply. Mine and my family's health is my personal responsibility.

I will continue to advocate for medical freedom and the right to make decisions for myself and for my family.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jena Schaeff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jena Schaeff