

August 17, 2021

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony regarding HB 248.

My name is Jennifer Kerr; I am a 2015 homeschool graduate and have been a resident of Ohio for the past 17 years. As a young adult in Ohio, I am concerned about what I see happening regarding vaccine mandates.

Throughout my education, my parents taught my siblings and I the importance of the freedoms that we enjoy in America. They taught of the bravery and determination of our Founding Fathers. They taught us to value the sacrifices that have been made by Americans throughout our nation's history to continue to secure and protect those freedoms. They modeled for us our responsibilities as American citizens. We witnessed researching and discussing the candidates that were running for office, the issues and levies that were going to be on the ballot and then on Election Day, we went with them to see firsthand the voting process.

The Declaration of Independence, of which we celebrate every July 4th, states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." The mandating of vaccines is in opposition to those unalienable rights.

Whether we like to admit it or not, some people are harmed or even killed by vaccines. Thus, the right to Life will sometimes be forfeited, if all citizens are mandated to take a vaccine. If "all men are created equal", how can we mandate a vaccine for ALL knowing that some will suffer irreparable damage or even death? Even if those that are injured are only a few, aren't their lives just as valuable as any other? Don't they deserve the right to Life?

The dictionary defines Liberty as "the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's way of life, behavior, or political views." Our government is encouraging businesses to mandate the vaccine. It is using its authority to influence others in authority to impose oppressive restrictions on Ohioans, thus altering our ability to be free within society. The mandating of vaccines in Ohio restricts our liberty. Requiring proof of vaccine to maintain employment or participate in society strips Ohioans of their Liberty and is wrong.

My definition for the "pursuit of Happiness" would be living the life that God gave me to the best of my ability. How can Ohioans live their best life when some are being required to take a vaccine that puts them in danger or goes against their personal or religious beliefs? How can Ohioans live their best life when some are being discriminated against because they cannot participate in a medical procedure?

Due to the urgency of the vaccine mandates that are occurring in Ohio at this time, please add an Emergency Clause amendment to HB248 and vote in favor of HB248.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB248. Your time and consideration in this matter are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Kerr