

Testimony of Jennifer Young
Peace Officer in the State of Ohio
House Bill 248

Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide my testimony on behalf of myself, Civil Servants, and healthy, free citizens of the wonderful state of Ohio.

Years ago, I took an oath to uphold the Constitution and the Ohio Revised Code, to protect the life and property of Ohioans, and to fulfill my duties ethically. Coming from a lineage of Peace Officers, I was honored to wear my badge and stand for the principles that America was founded on.

As you are aware, the last few years have been especially hard on peace officers and first responders in general. Despite statistics, the media has portrayed us as discriminatory to minorities. I am here to tell you firsthand, that nothing is further from the truth. I am honored to work alongside some of the finest men and women who face these allegations head on and openly work to END discrimination in our patrol areas. To further perpetuate mandates of any type that actively lead to discrimination is very disheartening. Freedom of choice is a blessing that we as Americans have, and to deliberately take that away is not only a violation of our constitutional rights, but a direct violation of our free will.

I have worked 12-16 hour days, alongside my brothers and sisters, during this entire pandemic. We had no options to work from home or to social distance to keep ourselves and our families protected. We stayed dedicated to putting our uniforms on with pride, to answering the calls of our citizens, and maintaining order. We never once looked at anyone during the last 18 months any differently, whether they had COVID, were vaccinated, were unvaccinated, none of this mattered to us. I myself have gone into countless homes with COVID alerts on them to protect the lives of its residents, without thinking twice about my own safety.

With all of that being said, as workers whose lives did not change during the COVID-19 Pandemic, I beg of you to consider the rights and freedoms of Ohioans. The fight to end this pandemic does not have a blanket answer, and we as Ohioans deserve the right to make decisions for our own health situations. Unfortunately, there is no universal answer to this issue.

By mandating this vaccine, you will knowingly bring harm to citizens of Ohio, whether that be through vaccine injury, loss of jobs, mental health issues, and loss of our freedom of choice. For those of us who have not backed down to protecting Ohioans, we implore you to do your part and protect us, as well as ALL our citizens.

This state cannot afford to make backwards strides on discrimination and hate, we cannot afford to lose first responders, our medical staff, teachers, laborers, etc. to mandates at our careers. We are ALL essential as human beings created in God's image and we deserve the freedom to choose what is best for ourselves and our families. Let Ohio be a beacon of hope in the chaos, that we are here to support and respect one another.

God Bless,

Jennifer Young