

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 Dr. Jessica R. Brent. I am writing to support Ohio Bill 248. I am a doctor and a mother, and an Ohioan who loves her freedom. I support Ohio Bill 248 because I do like to have choices in my life. I chose to be a doctor. I chose to be a mother. Most importantly, I stand tall and chose the right to maintain my freedom.

I chose to be a doctor to help people. I worked hard to get through college, medical school, and residency to get where I am today. I met conflict, but that never kept me down. I am now faced with complying to take the COVID 19 vaccine that I am personally uncomfortable to take or, if I chose not to comply, to lose my job and career.

I truly am compassionate for my profession and patients. I dedicate myself to my patients. They can count on me to help them as much as I can. I cannot force my patients to eat the proper foods, to not drink alcohol or pop, to not smoke, and most importantly, to take their medications. I can discuss and educate them on what they can do for themselves and improve their health. This allows them to have choices, but it also offers them guidance.

I became a mother and the proverbial, mother bear. I protect my children. I stand up for my children. I do what is necessary and best for my children. Since they are children and do not have the worldly experience or knowledge, I must educate myself to what is best for them.

No one in life should force you to do anything. Period. No one forces you into your profession. No one forces you to eat that donut or drink that pop. No one forces you to exercise or have the appearance you have. I have learned being a mother that if I force my children to do something, they will not. If, however, I allow them their freedom to learn and educate themselves on why I have asked them to do something, they will then consider what I have asked.

Ohio Bill 248 allows Ohioans to still have their medical freedom. It allows them to choose what is best for themselves. When did the government or even doctors obtain the responsibility to forcibly choose what to do? Doctors are there to help and guide their patients through their health conditions.

I beg you to pass House Bill 248 to protect us from discrimination and privacy. No one needs to know my medical conditions or choices. Creating the vaccine passport compromises my individual health and is a violation of my freedom. Please protect Ohioans' freedom and privacy.

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

Sincerely,

Jessica R. Brent, DPM