

August 18,2021

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 Jessica McCormick, and I am a stay at home mom and also live with a disability. The reason I SUPPORT House Bill 248 is because our most basic freedom in the United States is control over our children's and our own bodies. If we do not have informed consent and freedom to choose what happens to our own bodies, as well as our most precious family, then we are no longer free.

I have had Multiple Sclerosis since 2000, and as my body has lost control of different physical abilities because of the progression of the disease I have researched numerous possible causes and treatments to try to understand why it isn't working right and what I can do to fix it. My research has led me to question if vaccines could have been the reason I have this disease, and I don't think I would have allowed myself to be vaccinated if I had understood the numerous problems that could (and did) happen to me. Because of my own struggles with this disease, I have made different decisions for my children's health so they can avoid being injured and disabled for the rest of their lives as I have been. Without laws like HB248, I would be forced to vaccinate myself and my children against my will, or I would be discriminated against by certain businesses and other entities if a vaccine passport were created for this reason.

I think everyone should have the choice of whether they should have any kind of medical treatment, including vaccines, done to their body, and this choice should include being told of ALL possible benefits and risks of said medical interventions; better known as INFORMED CONSENT. This information should only be shared between an individual and whomever they choose to share it with, and it should not be required to be shared indiscriminately in order to engage in daily life; vaccine passports are intrusive of body autonomy.

I am asking my Ohio legislators to please SUPPORT this bill to protect every Ohioan's God given right to make our own choices regarding our individual and minor children's health and wellbeing. Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Jessica M. McCormick

