

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 Jill Dunsmore. I am a mother of 3 boys, high school counselor, and wife to a police officer. I am a proponent of this bill for many reasons. All 3 of my boys attend public school. I have worked in public schools for 20 years and I believe strongly in their ability to educate our youth. I want my kids to go to public school. However, I do not want to be forced to give them a vaccine that is new, and currently not even fully approved by the FDA.

Ten years ago I gave birth to my first son. As a new mother I was nervous and constantly doing research on everything I did for my son. I was alone because my husband, an army veteran, was deployed to Afghanistan when our son was born so the research and important questions were left up to me. One of the first questions a mom has to decide about (after circumcision for boys) is vaccines. The first vaccines are scheduled for 2 months. I talked to his doctor, nurses I knew, friends of mine who were in the medical field and they told me vaccines were safe. However, I needed to see data. I started reading. It was easy. There was a TON of data because the vaccines were not new. There was data to show that vaccines were safe. There was data to show the long term impact of vaccines and I felt safe in getting my son his scheduled vaccines. This data is not available for the COVID-19 vaccine. This vaccine has only been in existence for months and there is nothing to show parents how this vaccine may impact their children long term. As a parent I am not prepared to vaccinate my boys with this when the virus itself has such a low rate of death especially in children.

I am not against vaccines and if a person feels comfortable taking this vaccine they should be able to do that and if a person doesn't feel comfortable taking this vaccine they should have the same right to refuse it. I have lived in Ohio almost all my life and I have enjoyed the freedom from government overreach that living here has afforded me. However, by mandating this vaccine or allowing employers and schools to mandate it you are taking medical choices away from the people.

I am currently a high school counselor and my husband works as a police officer as well as a School Resource Officer. We both work around kids on a daily basis. We also interact with parents who feel as we do and we will not get the vaccine or vaccinate our kids. So if Ohio allows the mandates jobs will be lost and will go unfilled. I currently work in a district that has several positions that have gone unfilled and school starts this week. Long term subs are in positions that haven't been filled by trained teachers. If you mandate the vaccine more jobs will be left vacant. Also, parents will withdraw their kids from public schools. I am a huge proponent of public schools but I will pull them and look into another option if they are mandated to take this vaccine. Funding is given to schools based on enrollment. Schools will find themselves losing funding due to losing students. That will be a lose lose for all involved.

At the end of the day this bill is about choice and allowing parents, adults, Ohioans to make their own choice regarding this vaccine. Right now the research shows that people can still contract and transmit this virus with or without this vaccine. With that research the only reason to mandate this vaccine is to exert power over the Ohio population. If this vaccine doesn't stop the

virus and doesn't stop people from transmitting the virus there is no reason to mandate it. Allow Ohioans to make their own choices and vote yes on HB248.

Thank you for your time,

Jill Dunsmore