

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 Joe Hutchins. I am a coach/mentor in my community and coach for a local high school. I 100% support HB 248 for many reasons. First, this bill does not mean those who want to get the vaccine cannot get it. It simply means we all get a choice when it comes to this very important issue. If someone would like to get a vaccine, they should be allowed to do so. For those, like me, who wish to wait for more data to be compiled, we should be allowed the freedom to choose. This was the foundation of our great country that is very quickly eroding and fading into a totalitarian government.

I have read where many opponents mentioned if this bill passes it would cause economic damage. I strongly disagree. In fact, if HB 248 doesn't pass, the economy will suffer far greater due to employees being terminated for not taking an experimental drug that has not made it through all its required clinical trials. Businesses will be forced to close; residents will relocate to other states that give their residents a right to choose what they put into their bodies, homes will go into foreclosure, etc. To think our rights and freedoms are being stripped over a virus that has a 99% survival rate is unthinkable. Also, not to mention, there are numerous therapeutics and preventative medicines that are proven to help Ohioans, but the healthcare industry won't allow them solely for political reasons.

There are so many other reasons I support this bill and have read many others testimony that I completely agree with. Not passing this bill would violate international laws that have already been established, such as the Nuremberg code. The bottom line is if this bill passes, it does significantly less potential damage than if the bill is rejected. Specifically, if passed, Ohio residents who want to receive vaccinations can still do so. In fact, giving Ohioans a choice will promote more people to get vaccinated. If it is mandated, it will cause people to become even more resistant. If the vaccine is truly beneficial, time and data will unequivocally support this. Lastly, a vaccine that works and meets the true definition of a vaccine, will offer protection to those who choose to take it. People should take precautions they feel they need to take to protect themselves and not worry about what others choose.

This bill is extremely important to my family and me and will ultimately decide our near- and long-term fate. If this bill is rejected, we will have no other choice but to relocate to another state that gives us a choice. If it passes, it will inject a sliver of hope that this great country still has a chance to turn away from fascism and communistic tendencies it has displayed in the last two years.