

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Honorable Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for considering my testimony in support of Sub HB 248.

My name is Jordan Stryffeler. I have 14 years experience working in healthcare, with the last 9 years as a licensed Registered Nurse. I also am a Functional Medicine Certified Health Coach. I am a wife to a Professional Firefighter and a mother of two children.

The first thing I'd like to touch on is the Nursing Code of Ethics. There are four main principles of the Nursing Code of Ethics: Autonomy, Beneficence, Justice, and Non-maleficence. Particularly the part on Autonomy is what I'd like to highlight for you: "Autonomy is recognizing each individual patient's right to self-determination and decision making. As patient advocates, it is imperative that nurses ensure that patients receive all medical information, education, and options in order to choose the option that is best for them. This includes all potential risks, benefits, and complications to make well-informed decisions.

Once the patient has all relevant information, the medical and nursing team can make a plan of care in compliance with the medical wishes of the patient.

It is important that nurses support the patient in their medical wishes and ensure that the medical team is remembering those wishes. Sometimes, nurses will need to continue to advocate for a patient despite the wishes being verbalized because the medical team might not agree in those wishes.

Many factors may influence a patient's acceptance or refusal of medical treatment, such as culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, general health, and social support system."

This is why we as nurses are among the most trusted profession in the United States. We support and advocate for patient autonomy. This is our duty first and foremost as nursing professionals. This is also the thing that brings me the most

pride in my career. I have stood beside many patients, honoring their wishes, regardless of my personal, and sometimes professional, beliefs.

My question to you is, who advocates for us? Who protects our rights as educated professionals and also when we become the patient and take off our uniforms? In a matter of months, we went from Frontline Hero's to being faced with an ultimatum to accept a for-profit, liability-free pharmaceutical product or face termination. That doesn't sound like personal autonomy to me.

Many of us have natural immunity from exposures that occurred while working closely with infected patients, this isn't a new concept. In a study done by the Cleveland Clinic, scientist found that individuals already infected with SARS-CoV-2 do not receive additional benefit from vaccination because we are already immune. This may be true for those who were exposed as some are showing T-Cell immunity as well.

Our employers aren't asking for proof of immunity, they are placing all trust in pharmacologic measures as well as PPE. There has been no advocating for prevention in any manner, whether that be with nutrition, supplements such as vitamins that can boost the immune system, movement and exercise, as well as spiritual practices in accordance with our own personal right to choose how we decide to prevent illness. We are being forced to place our personal medical decisions on display for our patient populations when we are forced to mask or have vaccination stickers on our badges. We are being segregated from our co-workers and our personal medical privacy violated.

As someone who has dedicated their life to the service of others, I am concerned for the sovereignty of my family, my profession, and all of our children. I am concerned for anyone pursuing an education at the University level, or anyone who wishes to pursue a career, that they would be discriminated against based on the history of their consumption of pharmaceutical products. What I am asking for with Sub HB 248, is that the autonomy of ALL people, including our healthcare workers, be protected and preserved under the law.

Thank you for your consideration, I URGE you to vote “YES” on Ohio Sub HB 248.

Sincerely,

Jordan Stryffeler, BSN, RN, C-EFM, FMCHC