

August 12, 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 Julie Petrowski, BSN, RN. I am writing on behalf of myself and many other healthcare employees, and employees in general who are being forced to make a choice to vaccinate or lose their job; their career, their livelihood; that many have worked hard to establish.

I have worked for the same healthcare facility for 30 years! I was first employed in the hospital registration/admitting department at the age of 19. I worked my way up from registration to LPN, then to RN, to BSN RN. I am very proud of my title and I LOVE and am very blessed in many ways by my job.

I have always had a heart for others; advocating for patients and respecting their rights. A huge part of respecting others' rights is acknowledging their right to informed consent; the right to review the available information; risks, benefits, side effects, long-term effects, regarding a treatment, medication, procedure, clinical trial etc., and to make their OWN DECISION and CONSENT whether to proceed or not.

Making something MANDATORY is NOT consent! The long-term risks, benefits, and side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are simply not known and should not be forced upon anyone - NO medication, treatment, or procedure should ever be forced; regardless of the research, or lack thereof! What happened to ethics? To freedom?

I have been in healthcare for many years and have seen the good, the miracles, and by the grace of GOD, lives saved through medicine, I am definitely not downplaying that aspect; but instead, I am discouraged and saddened by the lack of freedom and consent, and that an employer would be willing to lose loyal, hard working, dedicated employees rather than give them freedom of choice for their own health and bodies. I cannot express enough the disheartenment that I feel to be forced to choose between a career that I love and was blessed to achieve or a mandatory vaccine that I do not want to receive.

I thank you and appreciate your time and attention to this urgent matter, my testimony, and the testimonies of many others who share the same feelings.

Sincerely,

Julie Petrowski, BSN RN