

Dear 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 Karen LaSalvia and I am a stay-at-home mom and former software engineer. I support House Bill 248 because I support the protection of all Ohioans against medical discrimination, forced vaccination, and the forced use of masks or other segregation techniques.

I have two children in elementary school. I ask you to protect our children from being forced to take the covid-19 "vaccine," to wear a mask, or be discriminated against.

Last year, I witnessed my 7-year-old twins when they got off the bus wearing their masks. Instead of running for the door, they labored to simply walk because they couldn't breathe well. Looking back, I'm ashamed I allowed my children's breathing to be restricted for nearly 8 hours a day, 5 days a week. The masks are cruel and ineffective. In addition, my daughter complained of headaches and fatigue at school and my son, who is autistic, was deprived of the ability to see facial expressions that he's still learning to read properly.

My husband and I gave up our children's right to breathe freely when we sent them to school. Never again. And they will not be taking the vaccine whether it's marked experimental or rushed to FDA approval. Children are at a very low risk of complications from covid-19, according to the CDC, and the vaccine is not without risk. Without being around for years of study, long-term side effects couldn't even be known.

The way I see it, if mask mandates or vaccine mandates are in schools, then the schools are withdrawing the opportunity for my children to attend. This shouldn't be an "exemption" it should be a non-question at school.

I commend you for authoring bill HB 248. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Karen LaSalvia