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Subject: Written testimony in support of HB248
Date: August 19, 2021 at 7:45 PM
To: rep62@ohiohouse.gov
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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 Lisa McKenzie and I am a Registered Nurse of 28 years. I
have spent the majority of my career working in inner city hospitals in
Columbus, Ohio

in Obstetrical nursing. I have served as an advocate for countless women
who would otherwise not have a voice. I have helped them convey their
wishes to their partners,

Mothers, families and all members of the medical team. I get to know my
patients on a level that would be difficult for a busy physician to do. I sit at
the bedside and listen to

their concerns, fears and wishes and help them put it to words what they
are afraid or unable to say alone. Sometimes, their wishes do not align
with my own, yet I recognize

that in America, Individuals are entitled to the freedom to decide what is
right for them and their bodies. The reason I support House Bill 248 is
because I believe that

nurses should be afforded this same right. The right to decide what
happens to their bodies. and what they put in it. as well. I do not believe

we should be strong-armed by our employers

to take a vaccine that is NOT FDA approved and that the short and long term side effects are unknown or face termination. I also disagree with labelling those who decide this vaccine is not

right for them at this time. Labeling such as a sticker on our ID badge or any other identification regarding personal health choices should not be on display and are a violation of health privacy

that we so dearly protect daily for our patients. We are a highly educated population of citizens who rely on research and potential risks and benefits in order to make evidence based decisions

in our practice. We are being made to feel not only selfish, but being accused of placing our patients at risk, and that is simply not the case. It is well documented that the VACCINATED are

spreading variants at an alarming rate. Many of us have worked through this entire pandemic without a vaccination for COVID. Many of us either contracted the virus or developed immunity through

working closely with infected patients. We didn't have the luxury of staying home in order to protect ourselves and our families.

I do not, as a professional, understand why this cannot be a decision each individual nurse is able to make, as is the influenza vaccine. I have heard it said "If you don't want the vaccine, then don't work

at a hospital that requires it". That is easy for someone to say that doesn't

have to decide to give up a position they have put their heart, soul and retirement benefits in to for 28 years.

As of now, each American citizen is able to decide if they do or do not want the vaccine. Why do the people who advocate for others daily not have that same right?

We are well aware that pharmaceutical companies have positioned themselves to dictate medical practice. They are now giving huge incentives for hospitals to require

this vaccine. That is a blatant conflict of interest and as evidenced by the health of our elderly population, who are often unable to afford their much needed medications, these companies

care little about our health and a lot about the almighty dollar. Who will be the nurse's advocate? Who will stand up for our rights?

Thank you once again for this opportunity to provide testimony on the need for and urgency of House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Lisa Kay McKenzie BSN, RNC-OB