

3119 Murdock Road
Cedarville, OH 45314
August 13, 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 Margaret Barnes and I am a registered nurse and mother of three young children. I support HB248 because I believe medical freedom, privacy and bodily autonomy are fundamental rights that should be protected by our government of the people, for the people and by the people. I have taken care of seriously ill coronavirus patients at my hospital, and I have also taken care of injured recipients of the Covid-19 vaccine.

Our medical community has made great strides in the treatment of Covid-19. With new antiviral drugs, plasma treatments, and other evolving discoveries, the death rate for Covid-19 is lower than it was at the beginning of the pandemic. We are also in a much better place with our supply of personal protective equipment. The development of Covid-19 vaccines has given many people an opportunity to gain some protection against the virus if they so choose. But an important part of this choice is informed, voluntary consent. Unfortunately, not everyone who receives the vaccine will survive and not everyone who survives will be unharmed. People who choose to receive the vaccine should be aware of the risks and benefits, discuss these with their healthcare provider, and ultimately be able to make their own decision. Vaccine mandates would nullify this process and make informed consent pointless.

I recognize that the coronavirus pandemic is a serious problem with no easy answers. I believe it is immensely important for each individual person to have bodily autonomy to choose whether or not to receive any vaccine without threat of repercussion or retaliation from an employer.

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

Sincerely,

Margaret Barnes, RN, BSN
Cedarville, Ohio