

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 Melissa Pike and I am a sales manager for an insurance company. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I see segregation and unequal treatment starting at my place of employment as well as that of my immediate family members. This is a very slippery slope. My department holds a conference twice a year. These are especially important for team building and collaboration. The last two have been all virtual. The one coming up in two weeks is hybrid. There are different rules for those attending in person who have had the vaccine and those who have chosen to not get it. Those who are fully vaccinated and who have entered their "confidential" shot information on a secure HR Website will not have to socially distance or wear a mask. Those who cannot / will not provide this information to the company will have to wear a mask then entire time unless actively eating or drinking, and stay at least two arm's length from all other attendees. So much for privacy over your medical choice. It doesn't matter if you have natural immunity because you have had Covid or if you cannot get the vaccine due to other preexisting conditions. Your status is right there to see by the mask on your face. Those who have not been vaccinated can attend virtually but cannot attend the dinner or team building activity that is crucial to career advancement. The future of my career should not be dependent upon personal medical information.

My son works in manufacturing and there is different treatment for employees there as well based on vaccine status. Medical information should be private and remain private. By allowing businesses to segregate and discriminate infringes on our personal freedom. Governor DeWine even said in one of his press conferences that the vaccine is available for those that want it, and the rest should weigh the risk. It should still be a personal choice!

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

*Sincerely,
Melissa Pike*