

Dear Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Holmes, Ranking member Russo, and the House Health Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248.

My name is Michelle Fricke. I have worked remotely for many years actively involved in medical coding and working in patient accounts. Premier Health Network currently employs me.

I support House Bill 248 because I feel as if I alone have the right to make my own healthcare decisions without any penalties or coercion. I feel as though I should have informed consent, and at this time, I do not have full knowledge of the possible risks of the COVID 19 vaccine. I do not feel anyone should mandate me to take a vaccine that I see as harmful or detrimental to how I choose to take care of myself. I watch what I eat, I walk every day (rain or shine), I jog a couple of times a week, I enjoy workout classes, and I lift weights at my local YMCA 3-4 times a week. I am concerned that all my work into my health might be destroyed by being forced to take a vaccine. Having no choice in the matter personally scares me beyond words. Thinking of being forced to take this vaccine has taken a toll on me mentally. Since being told by my employer and my government that I must take the COVID 19 vaccine, I have cried many times. My mind races, and I feel lost and hopeless. The forced vaccine topic has caused so much stress in my life that, some days, I want to stay in bed.

I feel very strongly that all individuals have a right to expect their personal privacy rights to be protected, specifically private health information. Anything outside of this violates HIPAA laws. Therefore, I'm afraid I disagree that I should disclose my vaccine status to anyone, including my employer. I do note that according to House Bill 248 that it is a policy of the state that individuals have a right to expect that their personal health choices shall not result in discriminatory treatment.

I feel very strongly that restricting unvaccinated individuals from enjoying any advantage or privilege enjoyed by those vaccinated is unethical and in violation of my rights as a citizen of the State of Ohio.

Currently, for me, House Bill 248 can help me in a couple ways. Although I work from home, I am being told by my employer that I am required to get the COVID 19 vaccine, or I will no longer have a job and will be viewed as turning in my resignation. The discrimination and threats that may limit me from attending music events, no longer having the freedom to dine out, or access my fitness facility without a passport proving a COVID 19 vaccination has been rendered are all in violation of House Bill 248.

I, as an individual, feel as though my employer has violated the provisions of House Bill 248, and I am seeking relief.

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

Sincerely, Michelle Fricke.