

House Health Committee

Proponent Testimony for House Bill 248

By Misty Mokrycki

August 7, 2021

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee:

Thank you for considering my written proponent testimony on HB 248.

My name is Misty Mokrycki. I am a nurse practitioner that has worked in Ohio, as such, since 2010. Prior to that I worked in healthcare in different roles since 1997. I am a mother of two children and am the head of my household.

In 2012 the local hospital systems made the influenza vaccine mandatory as a condition for employment. I have witnessed several exemplary healthcare workers leave the profession as a result of their religious and/or philosophical beliefs not being honored or respected. Not everyone has the ability to take such measures (i.e., quitting their job) and have had to succumb to the requirement or they risk losing the ability to support their family. Looking at data, specifically for Ohio, there has been an increase in number of influenza vaccines administered, but there is no statistically significant decrease in the number of positive cases or deaths. Therefore, there is no evidence to prove that the influenza vaccine is effective in preventing the disease.

Today the same hospital systems are mandating the COVID-19 vaccine as a condition for employment. There are several reasons why I have a problem with this. The first is that vaccines generally undergo 10-15 years of trial and data collection before it is presented for FDA approval and now we are being given an ultimatum in regards to a vaccine that has not had even a fraction of that amount of time studied. We do not know the long-term side effects of the vaccine. Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) was established in 1990 as an early warning system to detect possible problems with vaccine safety. This reporting system is voluntary by the victim and is required for a healthcare provider to report to. However, one healthcare provider may believe that one patient case is a reportable event, while the next may not. That is the case with any vaccine, not just COVID-19. The current data shows that in 2020 there were 10,875 adverse events due to COVID-19 vaccine from site reactions to disability, all the way up to death. As of this date, there have been 447,345 adverse events reported to VAERS for 2021 with the same range of adverse events. These vaccines need longer studies to prove their efficacy and long-term effects. We also have the right for this to be done via an independent peer-reviewed study that is not funded by multinational pharmaceutical companies. The second reason is that every American should have informed consent for all medical treatments and be able to have an individual risk-benefit assessment to consent to such treatments or deny them. Control over our bodily integrity is part of our civil liberties and mandatory vaccination is a violation of that.

As legislators it is your duty to protect the citizens from discrimination and potentially harmful practices.

Will our employers become liable when an employee or employees suffer adverse side effects of a vaccine that they mandate as a condition for employment? Will they pay the medical bills related to that injury? Will they financially support the employee during the time that they cannot work? The answer to all of these is NO. No employer will be held liable for any adverse event related to a mandated medical intervention.

As a healthcare provider I am held to a higher standard than any employer that is mandating medical treatment. It is my duty to provide my patients with the risks, benefits and alternatives to any and all medical treatments. I also must be able to accept the patient telling me that they do not want any medical treatment. It is not my position to coerce or bully a patient into a decision. I must be unbiased throughout that process and continue to provide the same high-quality care to them. I will not dismiss them as a patient in my practice for their decision to maintain control over the integrity of their body.

I, along with many other Ohio citizens, are having to choose between getting a vaccine against their consent or have an uncertain future of being able to support their family.

This bill will protect the citizens of Ohio to choose what pharmaceutical products they would like to consume as well as what medical interventions they would receive, without discrimination if an alternate path is chosen for themselves and/or their family.

Thank you for your time in hearing the concern from a healthcare provider, mother and head of household.

Please vote YES on HB 248.

Misty Mokrycki, APRN