

August 11, 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 Nakosha Bobst and I am a Registered Nurse. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because medical treatments, interventions, vaccines etc. should at no time ever be made mandatory by the government or a business. When medical treatment becomes mandatory the patient/citizen/employee are being denied the right of informed consent. Informed consent allows individuals the opportunity to reflect upon the risk vs. benefit of said treatment and **choose** if this is an appropriate intervention for themselves. Denying informed consent to these individuals is simply ignoring the reality of potential harm.

Further, the Patient Bill of Rights allows each person to either agree or disagree with their treatment plan with the right to refuse said treatment. This is the right of the patient to refrain from or refuse treatment based upon consideration of what is best for their health and wellbeing. If this is true for the patient, why would this right be removed from employees?

As a person with multiple allergies as well as additional concerns for my personal health, these are issues not being taken into consideration with the mandate that has been enforced by my employer. Employees are able to complete forms for consideration of exemption from the mandate. These forms include questioning your specific religious beliefs as well as personal beliefs and values that prevent you participating. This is a violation of the employees privacy, unethical and may be viewed as discrimination by many.

While it is understood that vaccines are of great benefit and have provided many with immunity to disease(s) and guarded immune systems from virus'; vaccines are not appropriate for every person. Vaccines should be presented with careful consideration of the associated risks and analysis of benefit to the patient for

ethical standards to be met. Regrettably this is not taking place with mandates that are being put into place, as there is not proper evaluation of individuals and their health history being performed.

Ohio HB248 allows individuals the right to be provided an opportunity to consent or decline a vaccine/medical treatment. This also prevents government or businesses from discrimination against those who choose to forgo vaccination. It is with this choice that these persons are assuming responsibility for the health and wellbeing of their family, community and self with alternative methods of protection and health promotion.

I support HB248: The Vaccine Choice & Anti-discrimination Act in its current language. HB248 is crucial for protecting each and every citizen of Ohio from unconstitutional government and corporate infringement upon our integrity and medical freedoms.

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

Sincerely,

Nakosha Bobst BSN, RN