

HB 248 Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Act Proponent Testimony

Nicole Jenkins, RN

House Health Committee

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

Thank you for the opportunity to allow written proponent testimony for HB248.

My name is Nicole Jenkins. I am a registered nurse and have been in practice for 9 years although I have worked in the healthcare field for 17 years total. I am proud of the work I do and I reported to work daily during the last 18 months not knowing what the day would entail. I didn't know if I was to be deployed or moved to another area as needed day to day, week to week. But I gladly reported to work, I had a community I wanted to care for even if it meant being away from my three children should I be exposed and need to quarantine.

You see, I worked hard to become a nurse and to help people. My entire adult life I had experienced health issues through just happenstance. I worked through it and kept my faith and succeeded in this purpose that I was placed here for. As a registered nurse I strive to provide care determined by the nursing code of ethics, in which autonomy-each patient's right to self-determination and decision-making is but one of the principles.

I am in support of HB248 as now, when I have cared for my fellow Ohioans I am being told that I along with many others are being coerced to accept an emergency-use authorized injection that is liability-free or be terminated. To go into the unknown for 18 months and now be told I could lose my profession is unconscionable, is robbing Ohioans of their right to freedom of choice. We work to care for our patients, to feed our families, and often times, we are someone's patients as well. We would never force a medical procedure on our patients but here we are being forced to make a choice to care for our community and feed our families or choose our own personal autonomy, our right to self-determination. To be told to acquiesce to a forced medical treatment or to lose our livelihood and passion is no choice at all, it is a violation of our inherent rights. As the news spread of the businesses and hospitals enforcing these mandates I have been on the receiving end of discrimination. If HB248 does not pass I fear that the discrimination I have experienced will spread to our community and will, in fact, be encouraged by legislature that failed to protect our citizens from forced vaccine mandates, vaccine passports, and potentially other losses of freedoms. HB248 is necessary to protect Ohioans freedoms, their freedom of choice and of bodily autonomy. Let us not go down on the wrong side of history but support each other and come together.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 248.

Nicole Jenkins