

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

Thank you for allowing me to submit a written testimony as a very strong proponent of HB248, the Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Act.

I am writing to you all today to beg for your help to ensure our medical freedoms are not taken away. I am the mother of a high school senior who had to end up doing online learning last year because he had his first ever panic/anxiety attack at the beginning of school last year because he was forced to wear a mask with only a 15-minute break during lunch. He was always a very outgoing kid and was looking forward to his junior year and getting back together with his friends and that lasted two days before I received a gut-wrenching phone call. He was sitting in the bathroom sobbing telling me he thought he was going to die because he couldn't breathe. We did what we needed to do and moved him to online learning and suffered through that disappointing venture as well as struggling to keep our son out of depression.

Now, he's back in person for his senior year and luckily, his school is making masks optional so far. But now we are faced with being bullied into getting a "vaccine" that is a new kind of gene therapy that hasn't had the extensive testing and vetting of past vaccines. Not only are we questioning the lack of lengthy study being done, and the fact that they were given for emergency use only, we also have an extensive family history of heart issues, anything from heart attacks to A-fib. Knowing that these shots are causing myocarditis and pericarditis has made us all take pause and after talking to our doctor have decided the risk of a heart issue, that may or may not be temporary, outweighs the risk of catching Covid and any of its variants. We also now see that the shots are not keeping people from getting it or passing it to others, so to us that is another reason not to risk getting any of the possible side effects. Not to mention they are now recommending booster shots! Have they even done any trials to see how people are handling the extra shots and if they are having any terrible side-effects?

I'm terrified that if these shots get approved, they will be forced. We are already hearing stories from friends who have kids starting college that are being forced to get the shots or not attend school. Even if they provide a doctor's note for a health reason or a religious exemption, the schools are not accepting these exemptions. The college my son would like to attend next year (Toledo) is all of a sudden telling the kids they are required to get the flu vaccine this year or they can't be on campus! Is that what these covid shots will turn into? They will be "flu" shots?

We are not anti-vaxxers either, as we have all had all of our recommended vaccines including the flu shots in the past, which we also decided to stop taking this last fall. We feel like we can't trust the CDC, the FDA or the government any longer. And now we are being told we no longer can be in society if we aren't vaccinated?

Also, health care workers should also be included in this bill and given the freedom to not be forced to get these shots or lose their jobs. My husband is currently in his 3rd round of A-fib and because there is such a shortage in hospital staff, he has to wait a MONTH just to go in for an outpatient cardioversion (shocking the heart back into rhythm). Before it was just a day or two before he could have it done. So now, he's so tired from his heart not pumping his blood

properly that he can barely make it through the day and is exhausted all the time. We still have 2 more weeks before he can get the procedure done. And he has to have a covid test done this week and if that should happen to come back positive, then who knows how much longer he will have to wait.

I'm begging you, please pass HB248, with healthcare workers, students in k-12, college students and all Ohioans included. We can not allow our hospitals and other healthcare facilities to suffer any further shortages, nor can we allow schools and colleges to force these shots on our children. We can't allow businesses to over ride our health choices and this is the first step in putting it back in our hands where it belongs.

Thank you!!

Pamela Stahl