

WITNESS STATEMENT

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: August 11, 2021

Name: Phoebe E Hood

Are you representing: Yourself Yes

Organization (If Applicable):

Position/Title:

Address: 595 Legends Row

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State: Ohio

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Please provide a brief statement on your position:

My name is Phoebe Hood and I am eighteen (18) years old, an Ohio resident and a sophomore at Denison University (Ohio). I support the immediate passage of HB 248. Because Ohio has not protected students, employees from schools and employers mandating vaccinations, Denison University felt free to mandate in May 2021 that all students receive a covid vaccination. Denison allowed a two-week window (to June 1) during which students could apply for exemptions. To my knowledge none were granted. I was denied both a religious exemption (which had been granted the year prior for flu vaccine) and a medical exemption which was attested to and signed by my doctors at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation (CCF). In fact, Denison sent me notice that I was to be dis-enrolled from Denison University due to my failure to comply with their mandate. It was only after hiring an attorney (at considerable expense) and threatening a lawsuit that Denison University agreed to allow me to continue my education. Our Ohio Legislature has allowed Universities like Denison and Employers to make medical decisions at their whim WITHOUT LIMITATIONS...and I am proof that they have and are. What makes my case even more shocking for your consideration is that I was also the victim of a vaccination injury (at 5 years old) which now prevents me from receiving any inject-able vaccine. I required surgery (2014) and medical care which left me with emotional and surgical scars. Denison University, even after receiving this information from my doctors, refused to grant me a medical exemption to their covid vaccine mandate. My CCF doctors specifically stated in written correspondence to Denison that receiving any vaccine was NOT SAFE given my severe contraindications. Denison University acted to force me to take a vaccine against my doctors' medical advice. Except for the fact that I hired a lawyer to represent me, I would've faced injury or death. There are currently no laws in Ohio prohibiting Employers or Private Universities from acting this way toward their students and employees. I should never have had to threaten to sue my university at 18 years old. What about the kids facing a forced vaccine mandate that cannot afford lawyers? Protecting Ohio students and employees is your job and I ask that you enact HB248. Ohio needs HB248. I need HB248 to stay enrolled at Denison University. Current Ohio law regarding vaccines and exemptions do not address the needs of Ohio adults (and children that have attained the age of majority) to have vaccine choice. Ohioans deserve the right to choose medical care and treatment they receive for themselves and to not be discriminated against for their private healthcare choices. Current Ohio law fails in this regard. Please enact HB248. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Ohioans need for and urgency of HB 248.

Sincerely, Phoebe E Hood

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