

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo and Members of the House Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony of House Bill 248.

My name is Rachel Johnson and I am a stay-at-home mother. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because it reinforces a crucial and fundamental concept in our nation and the state of Ohio that is slowly being eroded, which is autonomy of the individual to make decisions for his or her own health, wealth, well-being and conscience.

This concept of autonomy is a human right, pre-dating even our own nation's laws. It is a fundamental right endowed by our Creator and is a basis for our Constitution, specifically in the Preamble and Bill of Rights. It is important to remember, though, that our laws do not grant autonomy; they merely should uphold it. It has already been granted to us as members of the human race.

If the state takes the authority (which rightfully belongs to the individual) to force a vaccination (in the interest of "public good" or under any other guise), then that state also can take the power, through legal precedent, to make other decisions for the individuals-- moral, medical, financial, etc. For example, the state can also determine that it is no longer in the interest of the public good to allow multiple children to be born into each family and could mandate a one-child policy enforced through mandatory abortions.

Therefore, our autonomy as individuals **MUST** be preserved through House Bill 248. The future of our state and nation as a "free" nation that upholds Higher law are dependent upon this decision.

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

Sincerely,

Rachel Johnson