

## HB248 Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Proponent Testimony

Renee Roberts  
Ohio Resident and Concerned Mom

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 this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB248. In law school, I developed a love for our Great Nation's constitution and the freedoms it guarantees to all its citizens. Over the past year and half I have realized how fragile those freedoms are and how easily they can be manipulated and taken from us under many different guises. I will always stand for individual rights and freedom.

Because of this, I am fervently in support of a bill that preserves the individual's right to decide when and if to receive a vaccination, or any other medical procedure, without fear of ramifications from their school, employer, etc. While not against vaccinations, I *am* against *unsafe* vaccines and those that have not been sufficiently tested.

I suffer from an autoimmune disorder as do several people I know. Our doctors are telling us to sit this one out as there are no long term studies on the effects of the current covid shots on autoimmune and other health concerns. (Some of these doctors won't write exemptions for fear of being targeted.) Being coerced to take this drug is making us feel like we are signing our death sentences. Best case scenario, the shots are proven safe and in a few years time myself and others will be more comfortable taking them. That should be a **personal decision** between my physician and myself. It is not the business of my employer, my school, my place of worship, grocery store, etc., to know my medical situation. Can you imagine never being able to travel, attend a concert or sporting event, or a myriad of other events because you are following your doctor's advice? Because you are being judged, excluded, treated differently because of something you have a sovereign right to do? Unbelievably, parts of that dystopian nightmare are already here: so many venues requiring proof for attendance and countries requiring proof to travel. It is depressing and makes me grieve for the free country I thought I was living in a year and a half ago.

In reading some of the new vaccine requirements employers are putting in place, I am seeing words such as “compliance”, “obey”, “refusal”, “discipline”, “consequences” and similar. *These policies are terrifying.* Employees have no recourse. This is the definition of tyranny. The discipline employees are faced with is clearly meant to be unbearable so they will *submit* to the absolute power of their employer. This is not how America works! America and her people do not abide tyranny - even by “private” corporations. Individuals are afraid to lose their jobs, homes, and livelihoods and are afraid to take a stand for fear of ending up with nothing. They feel powerless. “Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely”. Today vaccines, tomorrow...?

Governor DeWine did us all a disservice when he stated there are two Ohios: one safely vaccinated and one not. All that does is create further division and empower the vaccinated to accuse the unvaccinated of a myriad of unfounded allegations. Allowing vaccine mandates will seal this discrimination as commendable and acceptable. HB 248 is crucial to protect the freedoms of all Ohioans and to protect us against discrimination based on vaccine or medical status. We must preserve the state and federal constitutional rights and freedoms of all individuals.

Thank you for your time.

Renee Roberts