

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

My name is Sarah Flanders and I am a Nurse Practitioner and I support House Bill 248 for a multitude of reasons. First and foremost, it is our God given right to choose what is injected into our bodies. From a biblical standpoint, a Christian can obediently choose or decline the vaccine. This is a choice of preference, and we have full freedom under Christian liberty to do either (Romans 14).

Furthermore, under Christian doctrine, a person's body is not controlled or mandated by the state but by God alone. God directs us how to use our bodies. There is Biblical freedom on both ends of the spectrum, based upon God's leading and their conscience. Finally, we have a biblical right to decline the vaccine. God is the owner of our bodies, not the government (Psalm 139:14, 1 Cor. 7:23).

From a medical standpoint, there is no sufficient or valid research showing long-term effects from this vaccine. Prior to injecting a foreign, synthetic substance into my body, I would like to know the long-term consequences (if any). In addition, the vaccine does not even protect you from the virus and simply "lessens the symptoms." When has the government ever gotten in on mandating a vaccine? This seems out of their "scope of practice" and should be left to the healthcare professionals who are in the field daily. After reading various credible sources, it seems to me that the government is after 2 things with this vaccine: money & power. The government is not concerned for our overall well-being, and I will not be a test subject in their experiment for power.

Finally, in 2010 I was diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis after receiving the H1N1 shot roughly a week before. Prior to that, I was an extremely healthy, athletic 18 year-old. Since then I have battled this illness to the point of having life-altering surgery in 2017 when I had a total colectomy with a subsequent ostomy & stoma. It has been a battle these past 11 years attempting to get my health back on track. I truly believe that vaccine contributed to my overall disease formation and progression, and I will not risk my health again for one. I can only imagine what this experimental vaccine would do to my health now. I finally have my health back on track, and I am not willing to risk receiving something that may alter that. Disease humbles you, and I would not wish this illness on anyone. Again, this is my body – the only one I get for life – and I will not be bullied into receiving a substance that could only make things worse.

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

Sincerely,

Sarah Flanders, MSN, APRN