

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 Serena, and I am nurse. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I am concerned about the welfare of myself and my coworkers. Employees are required to be vaccinated against Covid19 by October 4th, 2021, or we will be terminated. This is extremely disappointing due to the experimental status of the vaccine and the significant possible side effects such as autoimmune reactions, endocarditis, pericarditis, pulmonary embolisms, deep vein thromboses, and blood clots in other places.

I myself am also concerned due to the unknown long-term effects and lack of studies involving people of my gender and age group. Health decisions involve informed, voluntary consent not force or bribery. Peer-reviewed studies and changes in medical policy utilize evidence based practice to ensure the safety and efficacy of medical practices and interventions. There are still not studies completed for certain demographics which denies me the information needed for true informed consent.

Over the last year as a healthcare workers who worked on a Covid unit, I lived through fear of the unknown and inadequate personal protective equipment for properly protecting ourselves from Covid19 because I wanted to continue to provide the best care possible for the patients and their families. The vaccine mandate neglects to provide medical workers with the same courtesy, voluntary informed consent, we give our patients and their families when preparing for any sort of medical intervention or procedure.

My unit recently turned back into Covid after a month-long break. We treat both vaccinated and unvaccinated patients to the best of our ability. I believe that it should be a *choice* for all people to get the vaccine not a requirement for employment. Forcing workers to comply with a non-FDA approved medication needs to stop now.

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

Sincerely,

Serena Bisson, RN, BSN