

August 17, 2021

Committee members, I would like to thank you for allowing me to voice my testimony. My name is Shauntay Mullis and I live in Batavia, Ohio. I have family members who work in the healthcare industry. I am writing you today in support of House Bill 248, the Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Act.

First, I must admit, *I never thought it would be possible, that in the United States of America, we would have to fight to have the right to say "no" to a brand-new, inadequately studied, highly controversial, unapproved drug.*

I am fully aware Covid created real problems for many Americans and others around the globe. I understand the rushed creation of Covid Vaccines. My heart goes out to the brave individuals *who willfully* gave their bodies to science to see the effectiveness and both positive and negative effects these vaccines have on a person's health. I am humbled that they chose to put themselves in harm's way to help our nation try to find a cure for Covid. For those brave, *consenting adults*, I give gratitude. Even with that being said, I still have to add shame on those who either created or allowed children in these studies. In my mind it is a huge injustice to inject a child with any unproven substance.

Not all of us are willing to take such a serious stand and possibly harm our healthy bodies. It is frightening to think a person's employer is allowed to mandate an employee to become part of this study. A study is supposed to be voluntary, at least here in the USA. A single parent, a young adult wanting to start a family, a healthy person who feels they are not at risk of great danger by contracting Covid... How have we gone about stripping them of their right to choose whether or not they want a Covid Vaccine... to be part of this study or any future study? *This scares me. It should terrify everyone. If these mandates are allowed, Americans will be losing their right to have a say in their own healthcare decisions. Once that right is gone...what do we have left?*

A man whom I have always seen as an educated, level headed and all around wise person was asked by his mother whether or not he felt she should get the Covid Vaccine. His reply was simple. "If I tell you to get the Covid Vaccine and something bad happens to you, I will feel responsible. If I tell you to not get the Covid Vaccine and you suffer from Covid, and something bad happens to you, I will feel responsible. You have to make that decision yourself." He is right. We all need to make that decision for ourselves. Whatever way we choose, if the outcome is bad or good, we can only hold ourselves accountable. Speaking of that, where is the ACCOUNTABILITY? It has to exist somewhere. There is no accountability for vaccine manufacturers or employers mandating this experimental shot. I have already heard some employers stating they will not accept any responsibility for their employees if harmed by this mandated vaccine. They have been told "either get the shot or you're fired". How about the State? Would the State want to accept the accountability if one of these vaccines harms the health of someone being forced into taking it? I am sure the State wouldn't want that liability.

Another concern I have with Covid Vaccine mandates, aside from stripping innocent people of their right to choose, is the lack of transparency in these vaccine "trials". Why do negative Covid Vaccine posts regarding side effects and damages get deleted? Why are these suffering people being silenced? How is anyone able to make an informed, educated decision when negative data is intentionally redacted? Please know the people of the State are talking. *There is immediate cause for concern regarding our healthcare choice rights.* There may be, if not immediate, then possibly in the future concerns about one or all of these particular vaccines. How can anyone blame these medical professionals for saying "no " or "I want to wait". *More importantly, how can we let their RIGHT to decide get taken away?* How can we let them be punished for wanting to exercise caution when making this important decision?

Finally, where does it stop? If we entrust these healthcare professionals advice and services when we are in parallel with our health... If we trust them to keep us alive when our hearts stop, bring us through serious surgeries and other procedures...Why would we not respect their rights to choose whether or not to get themselves vaccinated?? And who is next? Who else's voice will be taken from them. Teachers? Restaurant workers? Our military? Our voice for OUR CHILDREN? **Pass House Bill 248.** Put a stop to Covid Vaccine Mandates. And protect us from being discriminated against no matter our choice. **State of Ohio, please protect our rights!**