

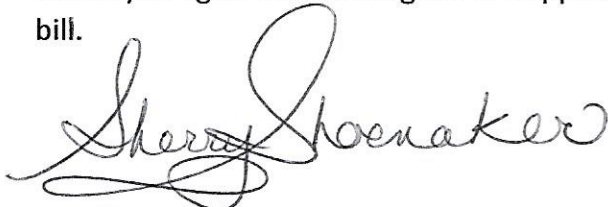
August 16, 2021

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

My name is Sherry Shoemaker and I am a wife, a mother of two and a Registered Nurse for 19 years and **I SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 248**. Everyday I live in fear due to the looming pressures of vaccine mandates not only for myself, as a healthcare provider, but especially for my young kids. It has become increasingly indisputable how important passing the House Bill 248 is in Ohio. Currently the hospital I work for has announced that all employees must be vaccinated by October 1st or they will be terminated. After 18 months of exhausting hours, long shifts, anxiety and fear of the unknown, to now the unknown being KNOWN, we have to watch our medical rights be stripped away. My heart bleeds with sadness that we are now forced to face an ultimatum: Nursing career or Medical Freedom. I live in fear of being able to provide for my family and to continue giving my children a private education. I fear for our freedom and my children's future freedom. I currently work in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit. Every day I acquire informed consent from my patients for a procedure and/or surgery. My patients are given the freedom to choose whether or not they consent for that particular procedure and/or surgery. They are not mandated. They are not forced. They are not threatened or coerced. True informed consent includes the right to either accept or refuse a treatment after you have been given information on both the potential benefits and risks. Mandating vaccines for employment, school, travel etc completely removes the medical freedom of informed consent. Vaccines are not a one size fit all. All medical procedures including vaccines have risks and benefits.

House Bill 248 is critical in protecting our right to medical freedom and bodily autonomy. We have to ensure that where there is risk, there is always choice. Vaccination should be a personal health choice. Ohioans must be able to make an informed choice that is free of coercion. Please vote YES on House Bill 248 not only for our freedom but for the freedoms of our future generations.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony on this very important bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry Shoemaker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end.

Sherry Shoemaker RN, BSN