

August 18, 2021  
HB248, Written Testimony

To:

Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee

I am writing to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 248, maintaining vaccine choice and healthcare privacy in Ohio.

My name is Stephen McCormick, and I live in Columbus with my wife and three children. I support HB248. Having experienced life with my spouse under varied and often damaging medical treatments and diagnostic tools for an incurable neurological disease for more than twenty years now, I have come to believe strongly that no medical procedure of any kind (including diagnostic procedures) should ever be forced on a human being, and no level of coercion should be acceptable from a source medical or otherwise - most certainly not from the government, a school, or an employer. Many people like my wife have to continually make hard choices about medical care, choosing among the best of evils in treatment options which may often provide both benefit and harm at once. As a direct result of experiences surrounding my wife's treatment, I find it morally and ethically objectionable in the extreme that any Ohioan is asked to surrender sovereignty over their physical persons as a condition of employment, for entry into particular businesses, or for any other reason.

The principal is simple, human, and American - we each have a right to personal physiological liberty, and to not being discriminated against for making the best informed personal choices we can.

A mandate for any form of medical procedure makes the appearance of agreement or consent a fiction. If a person is not free to choose their own health treatment options, their own *physiological integrity inviolate*, they are not free at all.

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

Sincerely,

Stephen J. McCormick  
1370 Deerlick Dr.  
Columbus, OH 43228