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Proponent Testimony re: HB 248
To: Ohio House Health Committee
Chairman Lipps
Vice Chair Holmes
Ranking Member Russo
Honorable members of the Committee

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony for this very important health topic. I would like to express my deep concern over the mandates and attempts at bullying surrounding the COVID vaccine that are sweeping across our state and our nation. Although we say we are following the science, there are so many areas where we are not. First, we are almost completely ignoring natural immunity. It is dismissed nearly out of hand. The CDC came up with a guess, saying the recovered have immunity for 90 days, at the very beginning of this pandemic and that number has not been updated or challenged since that time. There are numerous studies that show those who have recovered from COVID have long lasting immunity. Our very own esteemed Cleveland Clinic produced one such study. They also, with all their vast knowledge, have not mandated the vaccine when others have.

Now, my children face mask mandates and possible vaccine mandates at their public Ohio university should full approval be granted for these vaccines. They also face discrimination at their university for not getting the vaccine. Despite clear evidence from the CDC itself, who we say we are following, that the vaccinated are spreading disease, the vaccinated are exempted from any testing or isolation requirements. This is NOT following the science. It is treating those that act in the manner that you want them to with favor and punishing those who do not. This is completely unacceptable. When I asked the university about this policy and why they wouldn't want to identify all disease to keep everyone safe, the response was that they set that policy to incentivize students to get vaccinated! This single focused solution is coercion and is dangerous policy. But, it is not surprising given that we seems to have tunnel vision. The only goal is to get everyone to vaccinate. This should not be the case since there are preventative measures that can be taken, effective therapeutics and health reasons that make the vaccine more risky for some than for others. My son has had heart issues over the last year or two the cause of which his cardiologist has not been able to pinpoint. Given the heart issues arising in some young men, this is a major concern for him.

Please, think outside the CDC box and look into the actual science. Look at the studies showing natural immunity is valuable and should be part of the decision. Let Ohio's have the freedom to choose how they take care of their health and weigh the risk and benefit of COVID related health issues, just like they do all others. Thank you for your time.

Susan Moore