

August 19, 2021

This is proponent testimony for House Bill 248:

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 Tom Hach, and I am the Executive Director of Free Ohio Now, a grassroots action organization with 1000's of members throughout Ohio. The members of Free Ohio Now came together in April, 2020 because we could see government in Ohio was infringing on all citizens' inalienable rights through unlawful decrees. In this vein, Free Ohio Now actively supported the passage of Senate Bill 22, and the subsequent override of Governor DeWine's veto. All of us at Free Ohio Now are sincerely grateful for the Ohio General Assembly's courage to stand against tyranny and for the liberty of every citizen of Ohio!

Unfortunately, tyranny masks itself in many forms, and the fight for liberty is a battle without end! The next phase of the battle for liberty in Ohio is against mandated vaccines and vaccine passports, which I refer to as MEDICAL APARTHEID. MEDICAL APARTHEID is manifesting itself in at least two spheres in our state: government and private enterprise.

Fortunately, House Bill 248 directly addresses both of these areas and provides protection for Ohioans who want to make their own choice regarding the COVID 19 vaccine. I served over 21 years in the US Navy Reserve, and have had more shots, boosters, inoculations and vaccines than most Americans alive today. This was made especially evident when I was mobilized for one year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During my two week pre-Iraq deployment ramp-up taking me from being a civilian to being a combatant in a war zone, I received no fewer than eight (8) shots, many of them vaccines.

As was explained to me then and other times both before and after my deployment, these shots were to protect ME! Not the person next to me or other people I may have come in contact with, but me alone. Given this is about the individual, it should not be anyone's business but their own whether or not any person is vaccinated. This is especially true regarding government vaccine mandates, which is a clear violation the US Constitution, the Ohio Constitution Article 21, the Americans with Disabilities Act and without question should not be permitted.

Concerning businesses, I have always believed two things: 1. Businesses would be respectful to both their customers and employees because ensuring happy customers and employees are the best way to stay in business, and 2. Government should have a light touch on business regulation. The last year, however, has shown me neither of these beliefs can be absolute.

While I do believe a business can mandate a dress code and personal hygiene, a business does not have a right to mandate what employees do with their physical person. Allowing a business to mandate which medications employees must subject themselves to, is akin to an employee being owned by the 'company store' as in earlier days. In both of these situations, employees have to submit to the absolute control of the business in areas where the employees should have sole purview.

In addition to seeing businesses abuse the employee-employer relationship, businesses have also abused the customer-business relationship. This is exemplified by several 'big tech' companies preventing their customers from expressing opinions with which the companies disagreed.

While I have always been more concerned about big government abusing individual citizens, it has become clear businesses cannot be left to their own devices regarding how they treat their employees and their customers. While restoring the relationship between businesses and their customers will need to be left for another day, I implore you to pass House Bill 248 to end the growing MEDICAL APARTHEID movement in Ohio and to start the process to bringing balance back to relationship between government, businesses and all Ohioans.

Sincerely,
Thomas Hach
Executive Director
Free Ohio Now