

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 Tim Gillean and I am a medical device specialist, and more importantly, a dad to a beautiful little 2 year old princess, June Belle Gillean. The reason I support House Bill 248 is because I'm worried where we are heading as a nation regarding vaccine mandates. There's a growing pressure from multiple entities on not only my wife and I to be fully vaccinated, but also my 2 year old daughter.

I work across Ohio in the healthcare industry, and the increasing number of hospital systems that are requiring the covid vaccine is worrisome. If I don't get vaccinated, I'm told that I'm not allowed to enter any hospital within the system. Some systems are even denying religious and medical exemptions, saying they "will not review, process or approve any exemptions". This means that if you have cancer or some other disease that might prevent you from taking a vaccine, you're not allowed in their hospitals. If I'm not allowed in the hospital to do my job, how useful am I to the company I work for? It's baffling that an exemption is even required. I should have the freedom to decide whether or not I want to inject my body with any vaccine that is not 100% safe. It's also baffling that having antibodies to a virus, whether it's covid, the flu, or some other illness, aren't being considered, but I'm even more concerned with how my daughter was treated.

My wife and I recently moved here from Nashville, and we have been trying to find a pediatrician for my daughter. Throughout this process, we have been turned away by multiple pediatricians because my daughter wasn't fully vaccinated. We actually scheduled an appointment with a pediatrician, was called into a room, and then turned away. The pediatrician wouldn't even come into the room to talk with us or perform a basic checkup. The Hippocratic Oath is to "first, do no harm", and I believe my daughter was harmed not only by this pediatrician, but also others we've reached out to for help. Mine and my family's medical history should be a private issue, and not something we should have to share with a school, workplace, or even a doctor.

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

Sincerely,

Tim Gillean