

I am testifying in support of House Bill 248. It is vitally important for the protection and rights of Ohioans. Let me start off by saying employers are not doctors and should never be legally allowed to coerce employees to submit to any vaccinations. Employees are people NOT property or slaves of their respective company. An employees body belongs to that person not to the company they work for. At the end of the day an employee can't take off or remove a vaccine and go home. People have many reason to select or decline a vaccine. It should be a individuals right to choose. Its also worth noting that if by chance an adverse or permanent reaction occurs or a long term effect is discovered in the future, legal recourse is limited and very difficult to pursue.

Passage of this bill will protect employees, students and other individuals from forced vaccinations. Let me be clear: passage of this bill does NOT mean that the everyday person will choose to never again take a selected vaccine (as has been implied by some), but rather assure the ability of people to make their own medical decisions. I know from talking to friends who are nurses as well this is especially true of the flu vaccine that many do not get a say in. Some want it, other don't. It should be the personal choice of a person. Just because someone holds a medical degree or is a boss doesn't give them the right to tell another person what they will put into their body.

The everyday citizen if asked, as this committee surely can attest to from thousands of Ohioans who have called, emailed and other ways contacted their representatives over the last few weeks and/or months, want to make their own medical decisions free of coercion. Those who want to make their own medical decisions do so of their own beliefs whether religious or philosophical or other- I might point out as well that although exemptions for these beliefs are on the books it often comes with great difficulty to have these exemptions honored. If they are honored they often come with unfair conditions as well. Those who would force the issue of vaccination have their own motives and will claim to have the best interests of all involved. They also do not care about the desires, feelings, rights or dignity of those who they would coerce into receiving vaccines with threat of the loss of a job or banishment of establishments. Some front line workers including nurses have gone from heroes to victims by their employers putting this horrific burden on them and their families as they are being forced and more will be forced to make a decision if this bill does not pass.

I personally have received many vaccines in my life and will receive more as me and my doctor deem right for me. However some vaccines-such as the Covid vaccine is not right for me. Let me tell you a little about myself briefly. I have a disability. It's taken me years and the help of the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation several times to get and finally successfully hold my current job. I love my job. According to my doctor I've also already had Covid and have the antibodies and am thus not in need of a vaccine. As for me and my beliefs I will not get a Covid shot. Now suppose this bill doesn't pass and my employer decided to mandate it as a condition of employment. I'd end up being forced to quit the job that so much effort and training has been put into helping me get and hold. It is also not my employers business to know about my medical history unless I chose to volunteer it freely. Across Ohio others will be and currently are facing the same nightmare should this bill not pass and protect those workers. I work with a lady in her mid 70s as well who is a cashier. At her age it might be difficult to start over as she wants to continue working. She has said that she would have no choice but to quit if that requirement ever occurs as she doesn't want the shot. I also will mention she is a cancer survivor.

I'm not exactly sure if its relevant to this bill. But let me also say my personal medical information is private. Vaccine passports are invasions of privacy. I know the overwhelming majority of Ohioans feel the exact same way and should never be subject to such an invasion of privacy in order to enter any establishment or event.

Let me conclude by saying that passage of this bill is a vital protection to Ohioans across the state. Whether motivated by profit, or misguided intentions or other, no employer, school, government or other establishment should be allowed to mandate, coerce or otherwise force a vaccination as a condition of employment or entrance. Ohio should not have a society where vaccination status puts any

individual into a different social class. What is happening across the state especially in the medical professions with peoples livelihood being threatened by this issue is immoral. Please vote yes on house bill 248. Let people be adults ensure them the protection and dignity of the medical choices that are right for them by passing this law.