

Tracey Hill Pediatric Intensive Care Nurse, HB 248, August 17th, 2021

Dear chairman, vice-chair, ranking member and the honorable members of the committee, I want to thank you for allowing me this time in this important matter. I am aware that you have already heard testimony from some of the biggest companies in Ohio, including my hospital and now I would like you to hear from us little people. The ones who are working through the pandemic. Not the ones who are making policy from their zoom meetings in their nice cushy office and/or their living room. We are the people who are not bought and paid for, this testimony comes from the heart. It does not come from greed and power. I have been an ICU nurse for 16 years, in my time as a nurse the one thing that holds true is informed consent for all of our patients and their families. Never have I told a family that they MUST get a procedure or we won't do business with them. That is what we are doing with this Covid vaccine mandate. We are asking employees to choose between their potential harm from a vaccine that has not been tested in people for a year yet and their livelihoods. We are asking for young women who have not had children yet to trust the science and have faith in a govt and CDC who from the beginning have gotten it wrong. From mask don't work to masks work, vaccine will prevent infection to now it's not preventing infection or transmission. They tell us that if you had Covid you are safe and now they say you aren't and now we need a booster 8 months later. How can we say we know anything about this with certainty? Where has the scientific process gone? We do not skew our results to fit our narrative. I have seen now firsthand children come in with side effects that are unexplainable and our doctors say that it isn't the vaccine. They didn't even include it in the history and physical note that the patient had Covid vaccine a week earlier. This should be a differential diagnosis and be teased out with further testing and it isn't being done this way. Right now we are in a nursing shortage and I am positive that mandating vaccines with not enough data will only create a nursing crisis. This will result in unsatisfactory patient care and will harm more patients. I am begging the committee to please vote in favor of HB 248. Please stand with us and be our voices. We need you, our families need you. Please help us. Thank you for your time and I can only hope our voices will be heard.