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.

In any other time, the right to decline a vaccination and decide what is right for your own health would have been a given. The inability of both the government and private companies to force or bribe you to get an experimental "vaccine" would have been a foregone conclusion. Unfortunately, we no longer live in such a time. Places of employment, especially in the medical field, are now demanding that their employees either get vaccinated or forfeit their employment. Private businesses are now threatening to discriminate against customers who choose not to get the "vaccine", either by continuing to require them to wear a mask, or to deny them service, altogether.

Our own governor, to the embarrassment of many Ohioans, has become nothing more than a carnival barker, promoting his "Vax-a-million" lottery to pressure citizens to get the experimental, and non-FDA approved shots. Our state health department has become little more than a propaganda mill, cranking out ad after ad on television proclaiming that the shots are safe, and that the only way Ohio can get "back to normal" is to get vaccinated. Our tax dollars are being grossly misspent, and nothing is being done about it, but such is the way of government in the state of Ohio, these days.

The fact that we even need HB 248 is, in itself, extremely sad, and speaks volumes about the state of not only Ohio, but of the entire country. Despite this, the fact remains that you need to pass HB 248. If nothing else, to underscore our already-existing and God-given rights to live our lives as we see fit, without interference from government, healthcare providers, or private businesses.

We know what is best for our health, and it's nobody else's business what decisions we choose to make....not the governor's, the state health department, healthcare providers, employers, or private businesses. Pass HB 248. Ohio's citizens deserve no less.

Mark Hartshorn

Marietta, Ohio