Dear Chairman Lipps, Vice Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Russo, and Members of the House Health Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to share why **my family and I support HB 248**. The bill helps to defend the personal choice of those who choose not to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. There are many reasons why people choose not to receive the vaccines, including freedom of choice and bodily autonomy.

I support the right of parental choice. Mandated vaccines would nullify the freedom I have as the primary caretaker of my children. I am currently a stay-at-home mom with two children. I take an active role in the health of my family, and I make choices daily to aid in my children's well-being. I know best my children's health because I live with them. I know their health history in its entirety. If they need to go to the doctor, I am the one to document their family history, allergies, reactions, medications, etc. No one else sees or knows first-hand the needs of my children. Mandated vaccines strip the rights I have to raise my children in the best possible way as it fails to consider their individual needs.

I support the right of bodily autonomy. Mandated vaccines fail to recognize that every medical treatment is not right for every individual. I have an autoimmune condition. It directly affects my life every single day. After years of seeing many different doctors who prescribed conventional medicine for my symptoms, my conditions only continued to worsen. I finally found a doctor who suggested non-conventional methods for my health. Not only are my symptoms no longer worsening, they are improving! One method of treatment may not work for everyone and may, instead, cause more adverse effects. Mandated vaccines strip the freedom I have to care for my own health.

There is documented risk from the vaccines, so there must be freedom of choice. Increasing research is showing many viable options for prevention and treatment of Covid-19. I want the freedom to make these choices based on what's best for my family and my own body. This bill is important to me and **it will directly affect how I vote in the future**. I support those who support this bill. Thank you for your time in reading this testimony on the urgency of House Bill 248.

Sincerely,

Anne Johnson