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 Scott McVicker and I manage inventories for a Columbus based manufacturing company who provide specially designed systems for the aerospace, energy and research and development firms, many of which are tied to the US government. During the past 18 months my job was deemed "essential" and I have been spared from the shutdowns suffered by many Ohio citizens. However, these shutdowns have affected many Ohio companies and more importantly thousands of Ohio jobs. During the peak of the so-called pandemic, Ohio's unemployment rate soared to 11.1% in June of 2020, the highest it has been since June of 2009 when it rose to 10.9% under Governor Strickland's watch. The unemployment rate in Ohio was at 3.8% in December of 2019, the lowest since December of 2000 when it was at 3.4% under Governor Taft.

Setting aside the well documented risks from the vaccine and from wearing a mask that is unable to block this virus, I encourage you to support House Bill 248 and to vote for it.

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

Sincerely, Scott McVicker 2935 Ashburn Dr Delaware, Ohio 43015 614-395-6650