

62ND HOUSE DISTRICT

WARREN COUNTY

COMMITTEES

CHAIR: HEALTH

FINANCE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

**FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**



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**State Representative P. Scott Lipps
Ohio House of Representatives**

Chairman Young, Ranking Member Ingram, and Members of the House Higher Education and Career Readiness Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 747.

House Bill 747 is a simple bill that would prohibit colleges and universities from discriminating against an individual based on their COVID-19 vaccination status.

Our colleges and universities are institutions where freedom of thought and choice should be encouraged, not crushed. By requiring vaccines and discriminating against individuals who choose not to receive one, we are not only making very intimate health decisions for our students, but we are showing them that their education, choice, and autonomy are meaningless.

I know that many of us are likely tired of hearing this seemingly endless vaccine debate. However, I think that fact that this debate is ever-present is a testament to the needs and desires of our constituents.

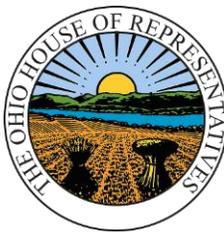
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This bill is relatively narrow in scope. It only concerns the covid-19 vaccine and it only affects private colleges and state institutions of higher education.

Simply put, colleges and universities cannot discriminate against an individual based upon their covid-19 vaccine status.

I am sure there are some of us who have chosen to receive the vaccine, while I am also sure that there are individuals who chose not to get the vaccine. I ask you to consider this question: why should those individuals be treated differently from one another? What role does the government have in deciding what a person is able to do with only their own body?

Vaccination, while proven safe and effective, should remain an individual choice. We do not have laws prohibiting college students with the flu from attending class. Very few, if any, colleges require a flu shot. In fact, the matter of flu vaccination is not even a topic of discussion on college campuses. Why then should Covid-19 vaccinations be the exception?

We trust college students to take out tens- sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars in student loans, why can we trust them to make the choice for themselves whether to receive a covid-19 vaccine? We trust college students to

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live on their own, to attend class, to study, and to ultimately make their way towards becoming contributing members of society, why is this matter any different? Why can we not cede control of vaccine decisions to the individual?

Colleges and universities are still able to recommend vaccines, but they will not be able to treat individuals differently based upon the status.

Please know that this bill is not meant to call into question the efficacy of any covid-19 vaccine, but it is meant to affirm that medical choices should remain at the sole discretion of the individual.

Once again, Members of the House Higher Education and Career Readiness Committee, thank you very much for your attention and for this opportunity. I would be happy to answer any questions.