

HB 319 written proponent testimony

June 8, 2024

Chairman Cutrona, Vice Chair Gross, Ranking Member Somani, and members of the Health Provider Services Committee, **thank you for allowing me to provide support testimony for HB 319; “The Conscientious Right to Refuse Act.”**

It is extremely important to me and my family to **retain the right to decline any vaccine or drug that violates our conscience or religion without facing discriminatory action both now and in any future pandemic.**

The events of the covid 19 pandemic are still fresh in memory and the vaccine mandates that came with it. Many were forced by their employer to receive a covid vaccine for continued employment or face termination if they refuse for any reason. College students faced similar situations to be vaccinated or be prohibited from attending class in person or even be expelled from the college. Vaccine mandates could have devolved into requirements to display proof of vaccination to enter a store for even basic supplies or food.

Without the protections of HB 319, one could easily see how the discriminations mentioned above can impact a person and family to the point of extreme peril through the loss of employment, education, and access to commerce. **HB 319 can protect the citizens of Ohio from all of this while preserving the individual’s right to choose what they decide to put or not put into their body.**

Ohioans should have their right of conscience and religion protected from the medical over-reach of employers or those providing public services. Both the U.S. and Ohio State constitutions address the right of conscious and religious freedom. It is time to make sure that those freedoms are protected at the state level. I urge the committee members to please **vote yes on HB 319.**

Sincerely,

Timothy Bosinski