

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.”

I feel that people should have the right to refuse any medical procedure. If that refusal is for religious reasons, the individual should not have to explain. If that refusal is for conscientious reasons, the individual should not have to explain. It should simply be noted that the person refused in their personnel file. In the case of public services, there should be no information requested or given.

I feel that this exclusion from the HIPAA act is a gross oversight. A vaccine is a medical procedure, much the same as a surgery or colonoscopy & employers should not be entitled to the information about whether the vaccine has or hasn't taken place. If they aren't entitled to the information, they cannot discriminate against the employee. In the case of public services, there should be no information requested or given.

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.