

Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laurie Stromme and I am writing today in strong support of the medical freedom provisions within this bill. I have always believed in the right of individuals to make informed choices about their own bodies. True medical freedom means having the ability to weigh risks and benefits, to seek second opinions, and to ultimately decide what is best for us and our families—without coercion, fear of discrimination, or government mandates.

But with freedom comes risk. We each bear responsibility for our choices, and that is how it should be. The problem arises when individuals are stripped of that freedom and forced into medical decisions they may not fully agree with. I personally know young adults who were compelled to receive the COVID-19 vaccine just to finish their college degrees—despite their concerns, despite their personal health histories, and despite the lack of long-term data at the time. Now, some of them are dealing with unexpected and life-altering health issues they didn't have before. That is not true informed consent. That is coercion.

The government should never stand between a person and their right to choose what medical interventions they accept or refuse, not only for themselves, but for their children. Whether it's vaccines, medications, or other treatments, individuals must have the ability to make their own decisions based on their unique circumstances, health concerns or religious views. No one should have to choose between their education, career, or participation in society and a medical intervention they do not consent to.

This bill is about restoring and protecting a fundamental right—the right to medical autonomy. I urge you to support it, not just because it aligns with the principles of freedom, but because real people, real families, and real lives are affected when that freedom is taken away.

Thank you.

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