

Good Morning,

As you consider HB 4471 I'd like you to keep my family's situation in mind as I know there are many others like ours. I am not necessarily an anti-vaxxer; however, I do consider myself an ex-vaxxer. I had all my shots growing up and my kids used to get their shots too until one of them after a 4 yr old booster had a reaction that now permanently impacts them. It disrupted their communication and even impaired their walking for a period of time. So today I want to share a clear message.

I say to anyone, until YOU have:

- * spent hours and hours researching, consulting, and working with your child to overcome challenges
- * taken them to see the neurologist, get blood tests, do brain integration therapy
- * spent countless nights awake because of the tears or guilt of knowing that your child is living with these consequences because of a decision you made for them

until you have done these things you have NO place to speak one word about the medical decisions I should make for the members of my family. And whether people like it or not, I have the freedom to make my decisions based solely on what's best for those in my household. That's why I'm here before you today because I have freedom, and in 10 years from now when my children want to go to college and are looking for a career, I want to make sure they will still have this freedom too. Freedom to choose a field they are passionate about, not based on what an employer may feel or want, telling them they have to have a shot to participate in society. We are all uniquely created with different gifts and different stories. None should be treated "lesser than," especially because their body can't handle a shot. It's time we start recognizing and encouraging one another, rather than instantly judging based on a shot status, without knowing any part of their story.

So as members who have taken an oath to uphold our Constitution and the principles protected within, I implore you to support this bill that ensures these freedoms not only for today but for my children and our future generations as well.

Jillian Grifhorst
Brighton Township resident