

Testimony of Megan Elder, M.S. Ed.

House Bill 193 - Prohibit penalizing employee for not getting flu vaccination
House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee
June 6, 2017

Good day, Chairman Young, Vice Chair DeVitis, Ranking Member Leopre-Hagan, and honorable members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

My name is Megan Elder. I am writing to express my support for the passing of HB193, to protect the bodily autonomy of healthcare workers in the state of Ohio.

As a a mother of two, soon to be three, I would like to address the fact that pregnant women do not qualify to receive a medical exemption based on many health care workplace policies. It clearly states in section 8.1 on the Afluria flu vaccine insert,

“Pregnancy Category C: Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with AFLURIA. It is also not known whether AFLURIA can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity. AFLURIA should be given to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed.”

How is one to interpret clearly needed? To accept a forced medical procedure of any kind is unacceptable, not to mention one that is potentially unsafe, and its perceived “need” coercive in nature, with conditions related to one’s salary, employment status, tenure, or even ability to access all healthcare options. Even further, the right of the developing child is being completely ignored with policies like this being permitted to continue. Fetal death is a documented side effect of the flu vaccination. No pregnant woman, or woman trying to become pregnant, should ever be told what to inject into her body and thus her developing child.

Nursing mothers are also not exempt from this mandate, and the insert also warns, in section 8.2,

“AFLURIA has not been evaluated in nursing mothers. It is not known whether AFLURIA is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when AFLURIA is administered to a nursing woman.”

Also, of note

“13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility AFLURIA has not been evaluated for carcinogenic or mutagenic potential or for impairment of fertility.”

It is clear, after reading those statements taken directly from a flu vaccine insert, that the effects of using the flu vaccine on pregnant and nursing women, and their growing babies, have not been established. Yet, health care workers who are nursing are pregnant, and their babies, continue to fall under this mandate, making it essentially, a large scale medical experiment. I highly encourage you to read through all 20 pages of the insert, linked below.

Vaccines are unavoidably unsafe. Individual or corporate financial interests should not pressure governments to pressure governments to mandate any health care measure. In order to secure the right to health, an individual must be able to exercise his/her fundamental right to privacy

and self-determination, and the right to make personal choices in pursuit of health, healing, well being, and survival.

Caselaw can be examined, and one particular statement made in a judgement on a case of bodily autonomy, is quite relevant to this discussion. Regardless of procedure, the human being should have the last say in what happens to their body.

As Justice Cardoza stated in *Schloendorff v. The Society of New York Hospital*, 211 N.Y. 125, 105 N.E. 92, 93 (1914), a case against a surgeon for performing an operation without consent: “Every human being of adult years and sound mind has a right to determine what shall be done with his own body.” *Id.*, 211 N.Y. at 129-130.

Human dignity, also known as bodily integrity, is a large aspect of human rights. Freedom from experimentation should be a fundamentally recognized right for all humans, no matter where they live. If America, if our great state of Ohio, cannot guarantee their citizens (both born and in utero) this basic human dignity of choice, I am sincerely concerned about the priorities and goals of these mandates.

Thank you for your time, and please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Megan Elder
330.360.3535

Afluria Insert: <https://www.fda.gov/downloads/biologicsbloodvaccines/vaccines/approvedproducts/ucm220730.pdf>

Human Dignity: <https://www.sskrplaw.com/files/dignity.pdf>