

Thank you for reviewing my thoughts on HB193. Patients - whether employed or not - should have the right to determine what medical interventions are appropriate for their body. Physicians should not terminate patients from their practices and employers should not be allowed to fire employees over ANY medical decision - including the refusal of a vaccine for ANY reason. Mandating medical procedures is a slippery slope and one that infringes on our freedoms as American citizens.

Again, thank you for taking the time to read this:

I am a family doctor by training and disease prevention is very important to me. I spend most of my professional life helping people prevent disease or reverse one that has already developed.

I believe very deeply in informed consent. My patients know that I spend time discussing preventive procedures such as colonoscopies and bone densities in an effort to prevent colon cancer and osteoporosis. I do, however, always respect the patient's right to choose. I would never "fire" a patient for refusing a colonoscopy - or any procedure for that matter.

That is what is so troubling to me regarding childhood and adult vaccinations. I view vaccination as a medical procedure that assumes both risks and benefits. If I am doing my job regarding informed consent then it also applies to vaccines. If a patient or parent feels that the risks outweigh the benefits then I will respect their decision as it relates to their body or their child's body.

Patients should always have the right to accept or refuse a medical procedure - vaccines included. In my view, all of us as patients are protected of that right under the United States Constitution as well as the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (adopted in 2005). Please consider the individual's right to choose what is or is not appropriate for them - regardless of the medical intervention.

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