

Good day, Chairman Young, Vice Chair DeVitis and Ranking Member Lepore-Hagan, and members of the Economic Development, Commerce and Labor Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of House Bill 193. My name is Laura Spangler. I have worked in an acute care teaching hospital for the last 38 years, 30 of which have been at my current employer. I am a Registered Health Information Administrator and a Certified Coding Specialist. I am asking that you support HB193 which prohibits mandates about vaccination for health care workers, particularly the current requirement that workers receive the annual flu vaccine. If the employee refuses, they are either terminated, or are forced to wear a face mask for their entire shift.

For years at my hospital, the flu vaccine was entirely voluntary. Several years ago they began requiring the vaccine, or the employee had to wear a face mask during the entire so-called "flu season" which can stretch from September 1 to the end of May. This is clearly punitive since even the CDC claims on their website that face masks do not prevent transmission of the flu virus. All employees, volunteers, students, medical staff, and residents must receive the annual vaccine whether they work inside the building or not. I myself have worked for the hospital from my home for over seven years. Quite frequently, there are stretches of a year or more when I do not even step foot inside the hospital.

The hospitals claim that they are doing this for "patient safety". Most people do not know that the real reason for the mass vaccination policy is reimbursement. The federal government recommended flu vaccination rates of 90% or better and began to financially penalize hospitals if they did not report. If the hospital was really interested in "patient safety", they would require all employees and visitors to wear masks during "flu season" as it is known that not all people develop antibodies from the vaccine. Also, the flu shot contains only 4 of the over 200 viruses that can cause influenza or influenza-like illnesses, and those 4 are a guess based on the previous year strains. Even the CDC does not claim that flu vaccinations prevent flu or its transmission. They only claim (on their website) that if the person who received the shot gets the flu, their chances of having to visit a physician are lessened by 50%.

In anticipation of my hospital mandating the flu vaccine this year, I have had to bear the financial burden of hiring legal counsel to protect my religious beliefs which are strongly opposed to any vaccines. Our country was founded on religious freedom, and I decided a long time ago that I will not compromise my beliefs for anything or anyone.

If HB193 is not passed, the consequences for me are as follows:

1. I will lose my livelihood with only three more years left in my working career unless I consent to an annual invasive medical procedure with established risks of injury and death which even the Supreme Court has deemed “unavoidably unsafe”. This is after having been an exemplary employee for 30 years with no blemish. The hospital, the person administering, and the pharmaceutical companies bear no liability for vaccine injury. As of January 1, 2017, \$3.6 billion has been paid out by the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, although less than 10% of all vaccine related health problems are reported.
2. I will have my civil and medical informed consent rights violated which are derived from the Nuremberg Code 1947 and the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (UNESCO Constitution)
3. I will be forced to start over and seek employment online for the next three years where they do not require an egregious violation of my right to informed consent.

It has become increasingly apparent to me that if this can happen in our country, it is no longer the country I grew up in. I cannot be proud or happy to live in such a place. If this can happen to me and my family members who work at the hospital, it can eventually happen to everyone who lives in the United States.

Please consider supporting and passing HB193.

Thank you.

Laura Spangler