

September 12, 2017

Dear Respected Committee Members:

I understand that businesses should be able to set reasonable requirements for their employees, including those affecting the health and safety of the workplace. The question is, where the line is drawn in those requirements? Certainly they do not extend to the point of required medical procedures, such as annual influenza vaccination, which carry known and unknown risks, which are covered under the principle of informed consent, and which carry limited liability to the employer for adverse events experienced by the employee. A few points to consider:

- In Ohio between January 2016 and September 2017, there were 389 adverse events associated with administration of vaccines including a flu shot. 260 of those were recipients of a single flu shot. Influenza vaccine accounts for the most injuries and deaths in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program ("Vaccine Court").
[http://www.medicare.gov/vaersdb/findfield.php?TABLE=ON&GROUP1=AGE&EVENTS=ON&VAX\[\]=FLU\(H1N1\)&VAX\[\]=FLU3&VAX\[\]=FLU4&VAX\[\]=FLUC3&VAX\[\]=FLUN\(H1N1\)&VAX\[\]=FLUN3&VAX\[\]=FLUN4&VAX\[\]=FLUR3&VAX\[\]=FLUX\(H1N1\)&VAX\[\]=H5N1&VAX\[\]=FLUC4&VAX\[\]=FLUX&VAXTYPES\[\]=Influenza&STATE\[\]=OH&VAX_YEAR_LOW=2016&VAX_MONTH_LOW=01&VAX_YEAR_HIGH=2017&VAX_MONTH_HIGH=09](http://www.medicare.gov/vaersdb/findfield.php?TABLE=ON&GROUP1=AGE&EVENTS=ON&VAX[]=FLU(H1N1)&VAX[]=FLU3&VAX[]=FLU4&VAX[]=FLUC3&VAX[]=FLUN(H1N1)&VAX[]=FLUN3&VAX[]=FLUN4&VAX[]=FLUR3&VAX[]=FLUX(H1N1)&VAX[]=H5N1&VAX[]=FLUC4&VAX[]=FLUX&VAXTYPES[]=Influenza&STATE[]=OH&VAX_YEAR_LOW=2016&VAX_MONTH_LOW=01&VAX_YEAR_HIGH=2017&VAX_MONTH_HIGH=09)
- In 2011, the United State Supreme Court declared that vaccines are "unavoidably unsafe." However, the public is only told that vaccines are "safe and effective." This "safe and effective" mantra is used to push for mandatory vaccines, including annual influenza vaccination, with little to no regard for the risk taken by the recipient.
<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/10pdf/09-152.pdf>
- Manufacturers, administering health care professionals, and employers have no liability for flu shot injuries and death. The public pays for this with a tax on every vaccine. And because an estimated 1-10% of vaccine adverse events are reported, the reality is that the recipients, private insurance, public health coverage ultimately pay the bulk of the costs for these injuries.
- Receiving prior, informed, written consent (that can be revoked at any time) is a fundamental medical ethics principle. It is provided for in the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (UNESCO, 2005), the American Medical Association Code of Ethics, and Ohio Revised Code 2317.54.
<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/2317.54v1>

- Mandatory vaccination also goes against free exercise of religion in the First Amendment for those with sincerely held religious objections to vaccination.

Please take all of these points into consideration and vote for HB 193, which gives Ohio workers the right to determine freely whether to accept or decline annual influenza vaccination.

Sincerely,
Donna Jo Kazee