

I am a Health Professional. I have been since 1987 when I started my career as a Medical Technologist. I have worked in the hospital setting and also in the private lab setting. Over my 33 years of service in the health care field I have raised two children. I encouraged them and numerous others to pursue a career in health care. I believe in science, I am a Lab Tech after all. I believe in vaccines and fully vaccinated my children under the guidance of my pediatrician. This is the setting in which personal health care decisions should be made.

When people choose to go into the health care setting, we knowingly take on risk. Potential exposure to many diseases through our normal work day can occur. We know this and choose to take this on for the "greater good". Health Care workers were and continue to be the front line defense for those that have the misfortune to need hospital care. We try to protect ourselves and protect our patients as we help them to the best of our abilities. During the pandemic we did this wearing Personal Protective Equipment designed to be disposable for entire shifts. We did this short staffed because our coworkers have called in sick due to exposures at work. We did so expecting a certain level of support from our management teams. Everyone has been stretched beyond imaginable limits throughout the duration of this pandemic and I have personally seen people rise to meet unbelievable challenges.

Now we have come to a breaking point. We were offered the Emergency Use Authorization Covid Vaccine and those that thought it warranted accepted it. As one would expect, some of us have developed natural immunity during this time. We have social distanced and continued to use our personal protective equipment and followed the ever changing directives. I totally understand being asked and even encouraged to take a vaccine, even an experimental one. However, never in my lifetime did I expect to be required to take a vaccine, especially one without FDA approval. I certainly never expected to be told that my experience, my personal conversations with my physician and my gut instinct were of no consequence. We are being told take this "vaccine" or risk losing your job. As health care professionals we are being expected to make a choice between the career we have been called to, a career we love and our personal health. The mandate does not even consider natural immunity despite studies showing the efficacy of natural immunity. The mandate does not take into consideration personal health risk factors that might be counter indicating. I do not intend to argue the science as I know you have all heard a lot of conflicting information. I do intend to ask, after 33 years of personal professional dedication to the field of health care, why do my rights to decide what goes into my body no longer matter? Since when are we not allowed to take the time to evaluate the long-term use of an experimental "vaccine"? Why, if it is so safe, are the very companies and distributors not willing to take on the liability if something should happen to someone after taking this vaccine? Why are the health care workers disposable?

I fully support the Sub. H.B. No. 248. We must return the right for personal health care choices to individuals and not their employers. Employers can NOT be allowed to force an employee into a decision they are not comfortable with under threat of termination. This is the very definition of abuse of power.

Thank you for listening,

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