

Hello! My name is Megan Schultheis. I am a registered nurse for one of the top healthcare systems in Columbus and I am writing to declare that "Ohio...we have a problem!" After sixteen years as a sales representative and deciding at the age of 40 to change careers to my "dream job", I am tired and disheartened. Every night I go in to work with a pledge to advocate for my patient's right to choose the medical option they feel is best for them. And yet, it has become evident that our government as well as individuals in the medical community are stripping me of my freedom of choice. Nurses are compassionate people who listen. We listen to the decisions our patients make, and we respectfully carry out their wishes without judgement or external influences. We listen with loving and understanding hearts. I thought that when it came time to make decisions about my own health, people would listen. Sadly, they are not, and it is the reason I write this to you today. I implore you to please hear me! Over the course of this pandemic, I have been subjected to others who have contracted the virus. Yes, we social distance. Yes, we wear masks at work. Yes, I follow strict hand hygiene protocols. And guess what? I have not been ill, not once! It saddens me that the path I have chosen as to how I handle this virus is being threatened. If I do happen to be diagnosed with the virus, I have researched other treatment options that are inexpensive, effective, and safe. Why force a vaccine when other options are out there? It simply comes down to this...every night people in the healthcare field allow others to choose their own health interventions, why can't I?