

Testimony HB 248

History Repeats Itself: Parallels between the Civil Rights Movement and the Pandemic Movement

I am here to urge our representatives to support HB 248 because I remember history and do not want to repeat it.

My paternal great-grandmother, Weda Williams, was born on a plantation in Bullock, AL and she lived there until she was six. Eventually, she and her family moved north and settled in Ohio. I knew her well and used to visit her a few times a month. She died when I was 11 years old.

My maternal grandfather, Joe Tolliver, had to leave Birmingham, AL with his brother, William, because they were so outspoken about discrimination and equality for blacks, that they were repeatedly threatened with lynching. So, Joe and Mattie, his wife, also moved to Ohio. Prior to leaving "The Magic City", Mattie was a Sunday school teacher at 16th Street Baptist Church. Had she and Joe not moved north, she would have been in the basement where those four young girls, Addie Mae Collins (14), Cynthia Wesley (14), Carole Robertson (14) and Carol Denise McNair (11), were blown up. And, I might not be here today.

My parents, Nina and Kenneth did what they could to stand for justice and equality during the Civil Rights Movement, so that, when I was born, in 1968, I was free and had the same privileges, under the law, as everyone else. But a vaccine mandate will change that.

Any student of history clearly sees the distinct parallels between segregation due to race and segregation due to vaccine status. Inherent in this discriminatory practice, is the understanding that what is happening with Covid, or whatever the next fear-driven narrative connected to illness is, will become the next battle for civil rights. Government sanctioned discrimination, based on skin color, is no different than government sanctioned discrimination based on vaccine status. The unvaccinated will become second-class citizens just like blacks once were.

During the Civil Rights Movement, blacks fought against unjust laws. Today, citizens are fighting against the tyranny of government officials and the bullying from people in their daily lives who expect them to relinquish their God-given freedoms, upheld in the Constitution, to the state and to obey mandates —mere words of men—which are not laws!

In slavery, blacks were masked for several reasons: to dehumanize, to shame, to silence, to isolate, to punish, to emphasize "otherness", and to incite fear. Blacks also had to show their papers to prove that they had freedom of movement off of the plantations owned by their masters. How are the Covid masks, social distancing, tracking/tracing, and vaccine passports of today any different than the tools used by the oppressors of yesteryear? They aren't!

Fear and intimidation were used on blacks then and is being used in the exact same way on citizens now. Fear is psychological warfare. When the mind is controlled by fear, then one's body and movements can also be controlled.

Lockdowns, masks, tracking/tracing, and vaccine mandates are abusive because they are systematically stripping away the freedom of citizens to choose for themselves the best course of action for their health. The idea of mandatory vaccinations for people to keep their jobs smacks of the same abuse legislators have historically used against whatever people groups they perceived to be inferior. Forced vaccines, medical passports, and tracking/tracing are all forms of medical apartheid. They are obviously discriminatory, and it is horrific to think that what people are enduring today is a repeat performance of the past.

Will Covid or future illnesses and all that they entail, spark a new movement for equal justice under the law? Currently, disparate treatment runs rife across this nation, spreading like wildfire. Demanding, in exchange for job security and participation in society, the injection of medical treatments that are devoid of both FDA approval and legal recourse when damaging side effects occur is draconian at best and criminal at worst. What happened to "My body, my choice" "Don't ask, don't tell" and HIPPA laws?

Those who love freedom must act, before it is too late. Please support HB 248.

Respectfully,

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