

I am a 49 year old mother of 2 wonderful boys, my husband and I have been married 23 years and he owns a State Farm agency in Strongsville, Ohio. We are avid Crossfitters and natural health advocates. We are fortunate enough to be able to educate ourselves on what it takes to stay healthy and off medication at our ages of 49 & 50.

Our son Tanner is 8 years old and was born with a rare birth defect called Posterior Urethral Valve (PUV). Due to this birth defect, in utero he suffered major kidney damage (stage 4 Chronic kidney disease), urinary and bladder issues, as well as other underlying issues due to his CKD. Tanner is a very healthy and active kid despite his health issues. Before birth and after birth we have been told and have discussed a kidney transplant--so kidney transplant is something we have always known will happen due to Tanner's kidney function. We have been blessed with an aggressively proactive urologist that diagnosed Tanner with a lazy bladder early on and intermittent catheterization has saved his native kidney function thus far. Our willingness as parents to intermittently catheterize Tanner has given his life some normalcy in the least invasive manner for a child with his medical condition. I make this a point because as his parents and his medical care-giver there is nothing medically we wouldn't do to keep Tanner healthy.

Tanner has been approved for a pre-emptive kidney transplant for about 2-3 years now with my husband being approved to be his living donor. Recently my son's numbers have been creeping up and we have been in talks with his Nephrologist about potentially scheduling his transplant. In conversation with my son's Nephrologist and the Infectious Disease doctor they questioned us on the Covid-19 injections. I politely indicated that my family and I have done many months of research and we are not going to take part in getting the injection--not now while it's experimental (EUA) and not even if and when it is approved by FDA. These specialists became offensive, argumentative and told me this could pose a problem for Tanner and his continued transplant approval. I asked them to expand on this but they deferred since at this time the injection is not even EUA approved for children of his age--but they mentioned it will be soon. I am greatly concerned that this injection will be forced upon us in order to transplant my child and save his life. I have been told by Dr. Janet Levitin, his pediatric physician, said that I should contact an attorney. I am praying this bill protects our right to choose for our son and our family for medical procedures and our other freedoms as well. If so, this is all the more reason why we need to have this bill HB 248 in place as well as the support for HB 253 and SB 169.

I am sharing this story because I want to protect my family's medical freedom and especially for my son from having to make a choice between (now and in his future) saving his life with a kidney transplant and taking an injection that is experimental and could potentially cause him more harm or future health issues.

