

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jon Steiger and I am a physical therapist at a nursing home in Covington, OH. From 2011-2018 I dedicated my life to earning a Bachelors degree and a doctorate degree to achieve my goal of becoming a physical therapist. During that time, I accumulated upwards of \$200,000 of student loan debt. I wanted to become a physical therapist because I enjoy helping others achieve their highest level of functional mobility, so that they can live their lives to their fullest potential. Furthermore, I enjoy working with our geriatric population in the nursing home setting. There are many lessons to be learned from our residents and they deserve great care.

Because of this vaccine mandate, I am contemplating walking away from a career that I have dedicated 1/3 of my life to.

There are various reasons why I am against a vaccine mandate, but I will start with the fact that it's un-American. As the Star Spangled Banner states, America is the land of the free. What ever happened to our freedom? Do we not have the freedom to decide what enters into our body? One of the worst things about this is that the vaccine is being forced onto us. This vaccine was created in less than one year. Most vaccines take 10+ years to create. We don't know the side effects that will take place in a year, let alone five or ten years from now. At this point we are simply guinea pigs for the COVID vaccines, as they aren't even FDA approved.

My wife and I each contracted COVID in September of 2020. She too works in healthcare, getting a close and personal relationship with COVID-19, as she works as a medical laboratory scientist. At the beginning of this pandemic, each of us, along with our co-workers, were considered "Healthcare Hero's." Many restaurants and businesses were giving out discounted and even free items to healthcare workers. Since then, the rhetoric has changed significantly. I have been told to my face by complete strangers that I'm irresponsible and should not be working in healthcare since I am unvaccinated. According to Dr. Marty Makary, "Requiring the vaccine in people who are already immune with natural immunity has no scientific support."<sup>1</sup> Additionally, a Cleveland clinic study found that, "Vaccinating people with natural immunity did not add to their level of protection."<sup>2</sup>

Many Americans have a false belief and poor understanding of the vaccine, as they think those who aren't vaccinated are having a negative affect on others. In reality, the only person a non-vaccinated individual is affecting is themselves. A vaccinated individual can spread COVID just as easily as an unvaccinated individual.

Just know that if this vaccination mandate holds up, there will be many healthcare workers lost. Healthcare workers are already burnout as it is. The constant testing, gowning up, masking, wearing shields, etc. becomes grueling and depressing over time. Forcing your healthcare workers to get vaccinated makes no sense whatsoever. They have been the ones gaining natural immunity on the frontline from day one. Why should they be forced to put an unknown substance into their body to fight a disease that they already have natural antibodies against?

This mandate will have a direct effect on our residents and we are letting them down. You think nursing homes and hospitals had staffing issues before? It's going to get much worse. Staffing issues will lead to an increase in falls, hip fractures, skin breakdown/bedsores, immobility, pneumonia, patients laying in a wet depends for extended periods, delay in medication administration, missed meals, etc.

I appreciate you listening to my concerns regarding mandated vaccines and I hope you take the consequences into consideration. Feel free to reach out to me directly.

Thanks,

Jon Steiger

419-236-3668

1. <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/why-covid-19-vaccines-should-not-be-required-for-all-americans>
2. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.06.01.21258176v1>