

8/9/21

I am a physician, writing in support of HB248.

As a physician, I inform my patients that vaccinations come with inherent risk. Any medical treatment does. Life comes with inherent risks too. Yes, vaccinations have had a dramatic impact for the better as far as avoiding many acute diseases (some dangerous, others not so much). Everyone who wants to get a vaccination should have that option. However, there are MANY GOOD reasons why individuals (or parents) might reasonably choose to not vaccinate, or delay vaccination. This bill guarantees our rights to remain sovereign over our own bodies...and to not be discriminated against for our choice. It does not limit the medical industry's ability to continue their vaccination campaigns, it does not mean we are going to go back to the days when smallpox was killing our children. It means we believe that each person should always be able to choose whether or not to receive medical treatment of any sort.

Regarding the argument that those who are unvaccinated are a danger to those who are not (or those fragile individuals who are unable to be vaccinated), it must be understood that each individual must take measures to maximize their own safety. For example, if you have an immunocompromised child undergoing chemotherapy, you might be angry about not being able to safely take them into public because of all those 'anti-vaxxers spreading diseases'. This is far from the truth, as any competent physician can tell you. Germs are ubiquitous. A fully vaccinated person can carry germs. A fully vaccinated person can spread disease. This is true of COVID, this is true of measles, chicken pox, meningitis, etc. Persons who are at high risk of such infectious diseases, but are unable to be vaccinated themselves, must take more extraordinary measures to ensure that they are not exposed to germs. For the rest of us, there is ample evidence that natural immunity (only possible after recovering from acute illnesses) confers greater long-term benefits to health than the artificial and temporary immunity of vaccination. See this Cleveland Clinic study of over 50,000 individuals:

<https://www.news-medical.net/news/20210608/No-point-vaccinating-those-who-ve-had-COVID-19-Findings-of-Cleveland-Clinic-study.aspx>

An analogy: if, as many who are opposed to this bill allege, the greater good must have higher priority than individual rights, then I assume we should all get on a registry with our blood types and DNA profiles, so that whenever someone needs a kidney transplant, I can be forced to give up one of my kidneys? Ridiculous, of course. No one would be forced to take that risk to save another's life. Vaccinations ARE NOT WITHOUT RISK. Just look at the publicly available data on our government's VAERS site (<https://vaers.hhs.gov/>). Look at the data from other countries.

It all comes down to this: Who decides what risk is too great for each individual and what risk is acceptable? The government? Welcome to medical tyranny. In a free society, each individual MUST have the right and the power to make such a choice.

As an important side note, I am greatly distressed by the lack of publicly available scientific debate about vaccinations. Anyone who resorts to the argument 'the science is settled', has

themselves only settled into dogmatism. Science is never 'settled'. Scientific debate and inquiry are essential to any progress in the field of medicine. Yet doctors and scientists who are asking important questions, who are trying to publish important works (that may go against the current narrative around vaccinations), are being censored and black-listed. These are extremely dangerous waters we are heading into. This bill is one hopeful action in a world that seems to have decided, without evidence, that vaccination is the line which divides us into 'responsible citizens', or 'nut-case anti-vaxxers'.

I respectfully request that our legislators (and our medical professionals, and our public) read this well-done essay: <https://charleseisenstein.substack.com/p/mob-morality-and-the-unvaxxed>

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