

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you in this time of chaos to have my concerns be heard. I am currently employed at Dayton Children's Hospital and work inpatient at the main campus. They released a statement through email and our employee website on Thursday August 5th, 2021 that they will be mandating all employees, volunteers, and students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine by October 1st of this year. After meeting with my management team about my concerns, they were only able to supply me with two forms; one for a medical exemption that they stated was unlikely to be signed or even approved, and a religious exemption. I do plan on submitting a religious exemption form, though it is rumored not to be approved by the board.

I became a nurse with one main goal: to help people. I strive to do my best to do right by my patients even if that means withholding medications that could help them. Medical freedom means that they have the right to deny any medical treatment. Medical freedom means that I should not be forced to choose between a job I love and succeed at and an experimental vaccine. In nursing school we learn and study the meaning of autonomy: self-directing freedom and especially moral independence. Autonomy is one of our duties to stand by; we must let our patients make decisions for themselves and not coerce them in any way to choose a medical treatment. How can we stand by this, yet have our own medical autonomy taken away from us?

This world has become a scary place and I only ask that you hear my concern and understand the rights that are being taken away from me. I sincerely thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns and read why medical freedom is important to me.

Thank you,

Mackenzie L. Schulz, RN