

I am an Ohio physician writing to implore you to pass House Bill 218.

As you know, the Ohio legislature has fallen behind other state legislatures in fulfilling its duty to protect all workers throughout the state. Any of the bills that have been introduced to protect workers so far have inexplicably failed to pass. The situation is becoming dire, specifically within the healthcare setting.

While the public and medical community had high hopes for what this vaccine would do, it has fallen short. The data unequivocally demonstrates that this vaccine does not achieve any of the goals that it was originally intended for. It has been acknowledged by everyone in the medical community, even the CDC and the NIH, that this vaccine has not been shown to stop the transmission of COVID-19—which could theoretically be the only moral, ethical, or legal justification to mandate it. The potential benefit of this vaccine is only realized by he who takes it, by potentially reducing the severity of this disease. It absolutely does not prevent a person from contracting or spreading COVID-19. Therefore, there is no legitimate medical or scientific basis for mandating this vaccine.

The consequences of vaccine mandates are potentially catastrophic to all Ohio industry. Workers are walking away from their jobs in all sectors of employment. I know this from talking to patients that I see every single day from all walks of life. And as a physician, I can speak firsthand to the situation in hospitals.

The morale of Ohio workers, specifically healthcare workers, is becoming completely decimated by these mandatory vaccine policies. As such, patients now see the quality of and access to health care diminishing significantly as the shortage of nurses and ancillary staff continues at an alarming rate. Nurses are leaving their profession as a whole, either retiring or getting other jobs elsewhere that are unrelated to health care in order to maintain sovereignty over their own bodies.

One of the hospitals in my area is unable to staff over 50% of its beds, and our operating room staff has decreased by over 50% in the last two months. We are already unable to perform surgeries requiring inpatient post-operative admission. If more staff continue to resign due to unwanted vaccine mandates, we will no longer be able to keep our emergency room open to allow patients access, as we have no ability to care for them in the operating room or on the floors.

Patients understand that Covid is not swamping our hospitals. Rather, politicians who are treating healthcare workers as expendable pawns with no bodily autonomy are causing nurses and other staff to leave in droves. These patients do vote. These patients know that their legislature has abandoned them.

It is time for the Ohio legislature to step up and serve the people who voted you into office.

Michael J. Scolieri, M.D.