
From: Gretchen Burkholder <ps139gretchen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 11:00 PM
To: Labor & Industry Committee
Subject: Fwd: Labor and Industry Committee Hearing: February 25, 2021

To: Representative Cox

I am Gretchen Burkholder from Lancaster County. My email is ps139gretchen@gmail.com. I am asking the committee to support the HB262, THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ACT. I would like this bill supported for the following reasons:

- As of 2/12/21, there have already been 15,923 COVID-19 Vaccine adverse events and 929 COVID-19 Vaccine deaths reported to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). Some short-term and all long-term risks of new COVID-19 vaccines are still unknown.
- This is not a 'vaccine' which would be containing a live or inactive virus. This is a medical device, it is experimental with no prior track record of mRNA medical device effectiveness or consequences. Citizens should not be used as involuntary guinea pigs. There is not even FDA approval of this vaccine as the vaccine was produced through an 'emergency' loophole and the safety and the efficacy of this vaccine cannot be proclaimed because there is no proof of either of these factors being so early in the use of this experimental vaccine.
- I am from a household with a teacher who has already had covid as have other members of our household and we have some immunity to this virus which still has a 99% recovery rate for his age group. Getting a vaccine would not be needed in the cases of people who already had the virus.
- In the absence of a protective state law like HB262, there are no state or federal employee protection exceptions to employee vaccine mandates for all vaccines for reasons of conscience objections to all the vaccines being given to adults.

- - The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission affirms the legal right of an employer to exclude the employee from the workplace even if an employee cannot get vaccinated for COVID-19 because of a disability or sincerely held religious belief and there is no reasonable accommodation possible. The state will have to step in and protect employees' right to delay or refuse vaccines.
- - While the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) allows employees to decline Hepatitis B Vaccines, and OSHA and many labor unions have expressed opposition to annual influenza vaccination policies that do not include religious and/or personal objection exemptions, there are far too many gaps in protection for employees to refuse vaccines for work.
- - All vaccines carry the risk of injury or death so there has to be informed consent and the right to refuse any vaccine without penalty. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program had paid out over \$4.5 billion in damages.
- - People injured by a COVID-19 vaccine have little recourse. Vaccine manufactures and providers are shielded from liability through the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, or PREP Act. This federal law establishes that the only option for compensation for COVID-19 vaccine victims is the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP). Only eight percent of all petitioners since 2010 have been awarded compensation through the CICP. There is a one-year statute of limitations to file a claim. No legal or medical expert fees are covered, no pain and suffering is awarded, lost wages are capped at \$50,000, and there is no judicial appeal.
- - This is absolutely unconscionable to treat the general public in this way with no rights to our own bodies and no recourse should anything bad happen, that already has happened to so many families who have taken the Covid19 vaccine.
- - No company should have the right to force its employees to take something they do not want to take into their bodies especially something with no track record. This goes way beyond the right to privacy of one's own self-government.

Please safeguard the rights of Pennsylvanians by supporting the hearing for the HB262 bill. Please be open minded to the fate of so many families that will be affected by force and coercion of one-sided medical viewpoints.

Thank you.