
From: maria napolitano <mfnapolitano@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:23 PM
To: Labor & Industry Committee
Subject: Support HB262, Right To Refuse Act

From: Maria Napolitano
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To: PA House Labor and Industry Committee
Re: HB262 Right To Refuse

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to urge you to support HB262, the Right to Refuse Act.

Please vote for it in the Labor and Industry committee, and vote for it on the floor to make it the law in the state of Pennsylvania to protect PA residents' rights.

Mandates for tests and workplace vaccinations are a defining civil rights issue of our time.

There are particular and overwhelming concerns with the Covid vaccine that is increasingly being mandated by administrative offices and employees nationwide.

There are many reasons for an individual to refuse Covid vaccine, such as:

- personal low risk profile for SARS-Covid disease
- personal or family history of autoimmune disease, allergies, previous vaccine reactions, fertility concerns, and other issues raised in studies
- legitimate concerns with a novel mRNA technology never before used on human beings
- a strikingly concerning profile of side effects, severe illness, and even deaths associated with Covid vaccines. VAERS database collects reports of adverse events associated with vaccines. AS of February 12, there had been over 15 thousand severe adverse events, and 929 deaths closely following vaccine administration, in the US alone.
- strong religious and ethical convictions. Though vaccine itself is made using molecular techniques, the original viral proteins used to create materials for those were grown on HEK-2 cell lines derived from aborted fetal material, and thus objectionable to those with pro-life position.

There are many reasons why workplace vaccine mandates are useless in preventing spread of Covid, and have other dangerous consequences in the workplace.

- vaccines have only been given emergency authorization by the FDA. Most clinical studies, as well as the full approval, are still in progress.

- vaccines have NOT been shown to prevent viral transmission, prevent hospitalizations or deaths. The study design only measures one outcome, reduction of certain symptoms.
- repeated studies have demonstrated that asymptomatic transmission in the community is non-existent. Many workplaces such as schools, stores, airlines, have been studied for the statistics of Covid spread or specific factors like ventilation, and found to be negligible in risk.
- how long vaccine-related immunity lasts is unclear. Time periods as short as 2-3 months have been postulated, rendering any mass vaccination useless.
- full 100% vaccination, or vaccine-related immunity, has never been achieved for any illness, including smallpox, the only human illness that was fully eradicated. Polio was declared eradicated in the US at about 50% vaccination rates, and the vaccine was never mandatory. Flu vaccine has never stopped a pandemic, and has varied real-life efficacy, from modest to negligible.
- workers becoming severely ill after vaccines opens the company to workers compensation lawsuits. The amount of adverse events being observed after the vaccine is such that the burden will be severe.
- if even a small percent of workers have their work disrupted, or leave their jobs altogether due to mandates, this will collapse critical and already severely understaffed industries such as nursing homes, food distribution networks, prison systems, airlines, and others.

Workplace mandates for Covid vaccines concern many members of my family who work outside of home:

- my daughter is about to graduate from nursing school. She has multiple chronic conditions, fertility concerns, and is pro-life.
- my brother-in-law is a third mate on a major cruise line. His employee already sent all workers orders for the mandatory Covid vaccine. He has allergies and a family history of rheumatoid arthritis.
- my son is graduating HS and looking for a job in IT support. A few companies he is researching have already indicated to the employees that they will mandate Covid vaccine. Masking and social distancing will remain in effect.

Pennsylvanians should not have to submit to injecting a risky substance into their bodies to be able to earn a living and provide for their families. The bodily integrity, respected in society and protected by law, is the cornerstone of freedom and individual rights.

Furthermore, now is an unprecedented time when big businesses feel they can impose mandates on both customers and employees, and small businesses follow. In the past, we associated extreme government mandates with totalitarianism. Not anymore. Thus, it is no longer enough to say, "Don't like it? You are free to work somewhere else". The balance of power is skewed so much that an average citizen is defenseless. A choice between submitting and forgoing participation in society is not freedom. We are looking to our elected representatives to protect us.

I further hope that this law will lead to better understanding of public health measures as those that respect civil rights as a starting point. It is obvious by now that invasive and restrictive Covid mitigation measures have failed to contain the illness but caused tremendous social burden including rise of excess mortality from non-Covid causes, such as drug overdoses, suicides, unattended cardiac issues, untreated cancers, etc. The simple fact is that free people are healthier. Same will apply to Covid vaccination mandates at workplace.

Please support HB262 Right to Refuse Act in the Labor committee, and vote to pass it on the floor. Please protect Pennsylvanians' right to live free and earn a living.

Sincerely,
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