
From: Rebecca Clarke <reba0310@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 5:39 PM
To: Labor & Industry Committee
Subject: Testimony for HB 262

Hello,

I am emailing you in response to HB262, more specifically in reference to work-related vaccine and test requirements. My former employer , Lionville Dental Associates, had stated in December 2020 that taking this injection (or invasive testing) may be required for employment. I have been on 2 interviews in the last 2 months, the first discussion even before we discuss my qualifications and experience, is if I have had my Covid vaccine. I am a dental hygienist, we have been seeing and treating patients since May 2020, following OSHA recommendations and CDC guidelines. It is my understanding that the dental field has had a low incidence of Covid transmission, as studied by the ADA. I have been wearing proper protective equipment including a N95 mask, and have been using aerosol producing instruments. I don't understand why I have to be required to receive the Covid vaccine when I have been following all proper protocol, following CDC guidelines and have yet to transmit or contact Covid from my patients or co-workers. We did have a positive case of Covid at our Lionville dental office. One of the doctors tested positive , he should have quarantined but didn't.... and in order for us all to return to work were required to have a negative test prior to returning to work. This vaccine does not stop the spread of Covid, , it lessens the symptoms. W still have to wear a mask. I am willing to wear all of the proper protective equipment as recommended by OSHA and the CDC. There is a false sense of security when it comes to this vaccine in the dental industry... many dental personnel probably won't follow the Covid CDC guidelines once they are vaccinated. Many dental personnel do not want to wear the required N95 masks and and the offices do not want to spend the extra money on the recommended proper protective equipment. With the studied low rate of Covid transmission in the dental field, I do not feel that this vaccine should be mandated or required in order to work in the dental field. This potential requirement directly impacts my livelihood, in that I will have to leave the dental field. I went to college for 3 years with a 3 year old at home as a single mother to become a dental hygienist. An accomplishment that I am very proud of... I love my job, my patients and my co-workers, and feel I am an asset to the dental field. Please PASS HB 262 and allow employees the choice to get the vaccine or not. No one should be forced to have any medical procedure, especially vaccines.... when there is no one liable/responsible for any side effects or reactions to the vaccine. Will the employer be liable for any reactions that occur from this Covid vaccine? How long will they be liable, reactions may be latent and not show up within the first 30 minutes? Currently, there are people reporting different kinds of reactions to the vaccine and not reporting to VAERS or the vaccine hotline... Will the employees that do have reactions and miss work due to these reactions be paid? Will they have to take their own PTO time or vacation? Will they miss pay because they don't have these time off luxuries?

FYI, in the dental industry most dental assistants and dental hygienists aren't offered vacation or PTO time.... If we take off, it's a day without pay. Thank you for your time. Please PASS HB 262

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Labor & Industry Committee
HB262 Hearing Feb. 25th