

November 10, 2021

Dear Special Committee on Government Overreach and the Impact of Covid-19 Mandates,

I am grateful that bills are being considered to address some of the impacts of the COVID-19 vaccine mandates, 22rs2356 and 22rs2357. I am in favor of these bills. However, I believe 22rs2356 requires additional protections for the rights of Kansas workers.

22rs2356 would require an employer to accept a medical exemption signed by a physician or advanced practice registered nurse stating that the requirement would endanger the life or health of the employee. The fact is that all of the available COVID-19 vaccines have caused alarming numbers of injuries and deaths already, which means that EVERYONE who receives a vaccine must take on risk of danger to life or health. No one should be required to receive a physician's statement to this effect. Each individual retains an inalienable right to be secure in their own body and person and to make their own determination of whether or not they are willing to take on the risk to life or health presented by a vaccine. No one knows ahead of time if they will be one of those injured or killed. When an employer requires their employees to be vaccinated, they are forcing them to make a choice between the risk of job loss or the risks of taking the vaccine. This is the very definition of coercion. While each individual should be free to choose to receive a vaccine, no one should be coerced. We need to legislatively stop employers from using this type of coercion. We also need to protect the employers from the penalties the Federal government is using to coerce them into such a reprehensible activity.

I work for a federal contractor and we are being told by our employer that we have to be vaccinated to comply with federal mandates. I also have a friend at another firm who was threatened with termination if he was not vaccinated. He has a wife and two kids depending on his income and he could not afford to lose his job, so he received a vaccine against his own wishes. I have a neighbor facing the same situation. He has a wife and five kids and cannot afford to lose his job. I have another friend whose child was so overwhelmed by the process of trying to get a religious exemption that they went ahead and got vaccinated, pressured into it against their wishes. I have another friend whose sister's child was vaccinated to meet the requirements of a college, and now is suffering from repeated fainting spells and potential heart problems as a result.

These are just a few personal stories from my own small circle. How many more stories like this will have to be suffered before we put an end to this? Please act now to stop this medical coercion. Employers are acting as doctors and dictators and making medical choices for their employees, then threatening them with termination if they don't comply. No one should have to request an exemption from medical coercion. Coercion is wrong and needs to be stopped. Employers who are joining this coercion need to be stopped. The federal government which is coercing the employers needs to be stopped now. If it takes a state statute prohibiting any vaccine requirements for employment or education, then do it. If it takes disbanding OSHA in this state, do it. If it takes rejecting federal funds and the strings attached, do it. Step up now please and protect the people of our state.

Sincerely,

Thomas Salt

Olathe, KS