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To whom it may concern.

My name is Angel Quintero, I live in Bismarck and have lived here for nearly 4 years now and total of 19 years in the great state of North Dakota. I would love to give a testimony about the vaccine mandate and how it is affecting my life. I currently work at CHI St. Alexius Health (3 years) and on suspension at Augusta Place Skilled Nursing Facility (1.5 years). The reason I am on suspension at Augusta Place is due to me not complying to their current vaccination mandate. I have worked in health care for the last 6 years; I have put in countless hours of overtime for little pay because I love what I do.

I was there when covid first hit the hospital back in 2020. I was also first one in my unit to raise their hand to volunteer to help extra whether it was screening people as they come into the hospital or being a runner in the ICU for covid patients or being a 1 to 1 on covid units. I was out here working 45–60-hour weeks when covid hit, when there were no extra incentives. My coworkers and I were working so hard while there were people without a job but being paid by the government making more money than we could imagine. I am not here to argue how unfair that was for us I'm here to argue against the mandate.

I disagree with the vaccine mandate that is threatening my employment. In 2020 I was considered a hero, now in 2021 I'm considered, and I quote from my denied exemption "*Present an undue burden to the business.*" Those words hurt me deeply and has hurt many others. Every time I walk into the hospital, I'm disappointed in myself for showing up to a work environment who sees me as such. There are many who tell me to quit, and they are right but think about who else is going to do it who is going to take care of patients. We already had a hard time staffing the hospital before the pandemic. There was no one standing up to help when the pandemic hit because they were afraid. The people who were already working in healthcare were not afraid of this virus and still are not afraid. One of the first things I was taught in my CNA class was: Treat everyone as if they have an infectious disease, that is why we do hand hygiene and wear the proper PPE because that is what we are trained to do. When you have healthcare workers who against this vaccine listen to us, we are people too. I have rights too just like everyone else. I understand the risks of this virus and I am not afraid.

My religious exemption was denied. As I said before in the letter it said I was presenting an undue burden to the business. I have worked very hard in the last two years battling this pandemic and those are the words they chose to tell me and many others. This mandate is going to hurt this community and its economy. There will be many amazing healthcare workers leaving the field if we don't stop this **medical tyranny**. I will not stop fighting for my rights, WE THE PEOPLE.

Sincerely,

Angel Quintero