

Good morning,

My name is Leon Francis ,

My Family and I are in District 24

And we fully support HOUSE BILL NO. 1457

A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 23-12 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to an exemption to required vaccines.

American healthcare is built on the bedrock of informed consent and the right to a second opinion.

We are being denied both in this current iteration of American Healthcare'.

Weve allowed informed consent to be replaced with censorship, coercive policies and mandates.

To be clear,

Getting vaccinated is a very, VERY personal choice.

You should never be forced into choosing between your ability to earn a living for your family or making a personal, medical decision that may not be right for you.

Exemptions are the only remedy .

I'll submit a couple of examples for your consideration:

My wife:

My wife Nichole has spent many years working for a reputable non-profit in Fargo. She had no choice when the COVID shot became available because it was required for medical personnel.

Despite her misgivings, she decided to take the first and second shot after witnessing coworkers being fired for refusing it. By the time the 3rd one came around, the mandate had been lifted. She decided against a third vaccine and would never again get the madidate annual Flu shot. We did seek advice from our Pastor and she did file a "religious exemption" which was not an easy process and was not initially taken . They eventually approved the " religious exemption" for the flu shot, but with exception. When in the office or at a company sponsored event, during flu season, she may be asked or required to wear a mask. In my opinion, the only reason the exemption was "approved" was likely due to the fact she works remotely and has limited contact with her co-workers and almost no contact with any clients. It should be noted that every year she was forced to take the flu shot, she got the flu immediately after taking the shot. She has been out of the office for three years and for three years has been flu free.

My son Collin

At the age of 19, my son Collin was pursuing his nursing certification. After finishing, he was thrilled to receive an offer of employment at an assisted living facility, paying a very good salary. With one exception. The COVID shot was mandatory . Reluctantly, he took the risk to avoid being unemployed in the field for which he had just spent a significant amount of time and money obtaining his certification. Within a year, he developed a blood clot that nearly killed him and left him permanently legally blind.

My Mom

When COVID was released, my mother was 70 years old and in excellent health, working at Wal-Mart.

She hardly ever missed work due to illness.

However, she grudgingly took the COVID shot when it mandated in order to avoid losing her job.

She experienced a number of new "health issues" including a massive blood clot during the year.

In addition, My mother, who had never smoked in her life, was given a stage-5 lung cancer diagnosis , an aggressive type that resisted chemotherapy.

A day before Thanksgiving in November of last year, she passed away.

This month marks my 50th birthday, and as far as I know, my Mother was the first member of my family to pass away from cancer.

In actuality, after 49 years on this earth, Ive never personally known anyone who has been taken by cancer.

This year, I know 5.

Since bodily autonomy is a fundamental human right, no one should be forced to choose between their career and bodily autonomy .

The protection of that right requires the support and passage of HOUSE BILL NO. 1457.