

HB 1301 I urge you to vote “DO PASS” for this legislation.

I have been an Occupational Therapist for 22 years, working in hospitals, nursing homes, outpatient therapy locations, and schools. Because I know that **you cannot find health at the end of a needle**, I have not received vaccines for over 20 years. I have been forced to work out of state where my employer does not require me to be vaccinated. I strongly believe, and research supports, that because all vaccines have risk, no vaccines should be mandated. Employees want the freedom to make their own health decisions and employers benefit from informed and empowered employees. Healthcare workers are often held to a different standard when it comes to mandating health decisions, requiring they take on supposed “protective” effects while submitting them to the guaranteed risks. This is illogical since we are the ones capable of reading the science supporting our informed choices. Related to COVID, I have never feared my exposure, even when working closely with those who tested positive. I have not been sick one day in the last year despite contact. I am fearful of being mandated to surrender my health to policies created in fear.

It is very important to me that I have freedom to choose for myself and my family whether we take part in the controversial use of vaccinations. **The ability to have choice in regards to vaccines has affected where we live, where we work, and very easily could threaten where we do business.**

Opposition to this bill makes some lofty claims:

“Vaccines save lives.”

“Those injured by vaccines are provided compensation.”

“Preventing businesses from forcing vaccines will cause illness.”

As I lay out below, this rhetoric is used to steamroll mandated vaccine policies, gain percentage points of compliance with vaccines for stakeholders, and coerce people to make health decisions because they cannot afford not to work.

I am fully aware of the risks of vaccinating and the shortcuts that have been taken in creating these biologics. I understand that some people think they are safe, believe that their health provider has thoroughly researched them so they can be trusted to share any and all risks, and that if there were issues of safety that the manufacturers would quickly make the necessary changes to make them safe. These are unfortunately all false beliefs.

With biologics, otherwise called vaccines, the health provider gives the vaccine and then sometimes supplies a brief information sheet saying how “safe and effective” it is. There is little to no admittance of side effects, allergies, and contraindications. There is no discussion of the aluminum, fetal cell lines, mercury, animal retroviruses, and polysorbate 80, just to name a few other ingredients. Facts that the Hepatitis vaccine given to day one of newborn babies was studied for only 4 or 5 days before being added to the schedule to be given to millions of babies each year are dismissed because it is now on the approved childhood schedule. The fact that no vaccine has ever been tested and approved on pregnant women is not mentioned either. Facts

such as the childhood vaccination schedule has never been studied for safety and effectiveness, but all studies of vaccinated vs unvaccinated show drastically reduced health for those vaccinated. If they are so safe and effective, why do **54% of our children have chronic health conditions** and the US ranks last in infant mortality. Ironically, when they bring up herd immunity, it is the generation that had the measles, mumps, and rubella that are now protecting our population because the vaccine immunity wanes over time and most are expected to not be at a protective level any more.

If you have a question if the vaccine may be worse than what it treats, you are accused of being anti-vaccine. This term is used to debase the argument about having the freedom to choose what is injected in your body. By calling names, and bringing up statistics from before plumbing and nutrition diminished the majority of illnesses we vaccinate for, they attempt to make anyone not blindly accepting vaccines appear misinformed. That could not be further from the truth! The people that I know that are making these choices, care about their health, know that you **cannot get health through a needle**, and have informed themselves of the risks and benefits. There are also many who believed the propaganda that vaccines were 'safe and effective,' until they or their loved ones were permanently injured. Instead of asking why people are "vaccine hesitant," and trying to coerce compliance, maybe they should take notice of the consequences of vaccine injury and accept that vaccines are not a "one size fits all," **so should NEVER be mandated**.

In regards to injury, they are not mild or rare. The Vaccine Injury Compensation Program has awarded over \$4 billion dollars in funds due to injury (representing a tiny fraction of those that apply, as most cannot afford to fight or miss the window of submitting a claim because of not receiving informed consent). But most people are told incorrectly that any adverse reaction is "normal" and expected, even a "good sign" that it is working. We know that health providers report less than 1% of adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) so they are not admitting the adverse events or they are not informed themselves enough to identify them. It is this same passive reporting system charged with determining if the vaccines are dangerous or causing too many injuries. This broken system has led to years of injuries before a vaccine is removed from use. A vaccine, once injected, cannot be "stopped" like a medication, so it is even more vital that it be left up to each individual to make their own risk vs benefit decision.

Pharmaceutical companies are not held liable for any injuries or deaths resulting from their use due to heavily lobbied for legislation in 1984. Not coincidentally, the number of vaccines put on the recommended schedule increased drastically after that decision. [Is the Childhood Vaccine Schedule Safe? – NVIC Newsletter](#) If a vaccine is placed on the recommended schedule, manufacturers have guaranteed profit with no liability. A tax on each vaccine goes to a fund to pay out for injuries, but this process takes years and the list of "allowed injuries that can receive pay outs" shrinks all the time. The injured person or parent has to fight against government lawyers and experts to try and prove injury, when the manufacturers have taken shortcuts and not proven safety. Still, the flu vaccine is a

large portion of the injuries to VAERS and a significant portion of the payouts, with exchange for lifelong disability. [Adult Vaccines Denied Federal Injury Compensation Coverage – NVIC Newsletter](#)

The health provider, business, nor employer are held liable when the vaccine they mandate causes illness, injury, or death. More and more businesses have been requiring the flu vaccine for employment, and this vaccine is known to be ineffective, increases the risk of getting other respiratory illnesses, and doesn't prevent hospitalization or death. [Influenza Information – NVIC](#) **We have a shortage of workers in healthcare, and healthcare is the most likely to mandate vaccinations, despite their not being proof of preventative effect.** I myself am very limited in where I can work in healthcare since I have chosen not to get vaccines. I have seen many employees having reactions from the COVID-19 vaccinations. I've heard many who only got it because they felt pressured to get it by their employer, and it isn't even approved by the FDA, yet!

I understand the common view that "vaccines are safe and effective." In fact, testimony in opposition claims as much, this however is not fact.

Because governmental agencies both sell vaccines and choose which ones to add to the schedule, they are hardly unbiased in their research and recommendations. Health providers are fed this research and told not to question the "science."

Because they are biologics, they are not required to be studied for years and against inert placebos.

Because there is no liability, no one is to blame or helps to cover medical and lifelong living costs due to injury.

Because they are accepted by most health providers as safe, adverse events are excused and injuries go unreported.

Because they are "required", people don't even know that they have a choice and don't know there are exemptions.

We need to ensure we are leaving the decision to vaccinate or not to vaccinate up to the ones who will be left responsible. Health decisions should be made, not forced.

We need to allow people to make their own risk vs benefit analysis after being informed, not pressured.

Please pass this bill to show your support for our philosophical, religious, and medical exemptions therefore protecting our most basic right, the right for health freedom.

Erin McSparron