Subject Line: 105CMR130 Hospital Licensure- Vaccination Requirements

August 1, 2023

To the Members of the Joint Committee:

I am writing you today to request that you oppose the present bill being discussed which will, if passed, require all health workers to be vaccinated with up -to- date Covid shots, which I believe will require annual Covid shots.

I am a registered nurse with a B.S.N. degree and I know a number of excellent nurses who left their careers after working as nurses for anywhere from 10 to 30+ years. I do not believe any of them would ever do anything to jeopardize the health of their patients nor would they go to work being symptomatic of any disease. Due to the vaccination requirement, hospitals have eliminated some very competent health care workers that would improve a patient’s care just using their knowledge base. We, also, have a nursing shortage. Mandating more vaccines will only further erode our health care system.

I, also, feel health care workers who may be in private practices may be less likely exposed to the same number of diseases present in hospitals just based on the sheer number of patients seen and thus, puts them at less risk of exposure. For example, psychiatrists usually care for physically healthy individuals more often than sick individuals and are, therefore, less likely to be exposed to Covid. They deserve the right to medical freedom.

I, also, know of a number of vaccinated persons who suffered adverse reactions, especially after receiving more than one dose. I, also, know many who still got Covid despite being vaccinated. Thus, should we put our medical staff at risk after all they have done for us when Covid was spreading? They risked their lives to care for their patients and now we don’t wish to let them make their own decision for their own personal health? This, to me is despicable and goes against the Nuremburg Code.

I support receiving vaccinations. I have received the majority of those offered. I have never received a flu shot yet I don’t recall ever having had the flu. Moreover, I believe in natural immunity which is presently being ignored while it is considered sufficient for children/adults who have had the chicken pox.

I, for one, wish to know if I get sick in the future, I want the best care available but without these workers, it will be to my detriment and to yours. As a health care worker, I agree to “do no harm” and would appreciate the same courtesy from our governmental officials.

Please OPPOSE this bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O’Malley

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