

Dear Attorney General Yost,

I applaud your decision to make Ohio a participant in the multi-state lawsuit against the Biden administration's healthcare worker vaccine mandate. However, unless an injunction is issued soon the mandate will be enforced on December 6th. We will then have no choice but to comply or end our careers. I am writing to ask you to do anything in your power to prevent that dire outcome.

Whether or not the mandate has legal standing will be decided by the courts. What is certain, however, is that it is coercive, scientifically flawed and inhumane. Adverse effects of the vaccine are widely underreported and, for the most part, not even collected. Even so, data available from the vaers (vaccine adverse event reporting system) website indicate that 10,000 people have died of the vaccine, not to mention those who have been seriously harmed. Furthermore, the long-term side effects of the mRNA COVID vaccines are still unknown. The blanket assumption of safety is hasty and dangerous.

That certain groups would benefit from the vaccine is not in question. Indeed, high-risk individuals may die of the disease. However, indiscriminate vaccination is unwise, often harmful and sometimes deadly. The decision to avail oneself of the vaccine should be a matter of individual choice undertaken with the guidance of a physician.

As average listeners hear a song's rhythm and melody, but fail to appreciate the subtleties of the harmony and the complexities of the orchestration, so do average citizens hear of the vaccine's protective benefits, without appreciation for its risks, its limitations and complications.

The medical community is acutely aware of some of the problems involving the vaccine. Unfortunately, those have been largely hidden from the public, by both government and industry. Medical professionals who toe the government's line do so for personal, financial or political gain, and all too often for fear of retribution. Federal agencies offer directives which they cannot fully substantiate. The potential for death or permanent injury from the vaccine is ignored, regarded as a mere temporal association or collateral damage.

The resistance that exists, especially among younger healthcare workers, is not a revolt against vaccines in general, or a revolt against authority. Most have received the hepatitis B vaccine and receive the annual flu shot. The resistance to the COVID vaccine is the fear of a substance which becomes a permanent part of your organism, possibly leading to hitherto unknown consequences. Their fears are real and, until proof of the contrary, their concerns justified.

For younger healthcare workers without preexisting conditions, the risk of death or serious disease from COVID-19 infection is extremely small, especially given the large number who have already been exposed to the virus and developed natural immunity. Those clearly do not need to be vaccinated. Multiple studies have shown natural immunity to be far more robust and longer-lasting than that conferred by the vaccine. Furthermore, the efficacy of the vaccine declines within a few months, inevitably leading to endless boosters.

Only one study, conducted by the CDC, purports to show that immunity derived from the vaccine is superior to that acquired by viral infection. It has so many flaws and caveats that, even by the admission of its authors, the only reachable conclusion is that the vaccine may enhance natural immunity. The obvious objection, of course, is who needs that enhancement if death may be the price you pay.

That no exception in Biden's mandate is made for the naturally immune is astounding. Draconian measures that defy facts are the hallmark of totalitarianism.

The imposition of vaccine mandates has been nothing less than demoralizing to those who dedicate their lives to save lives. In the throes of the pandemic, health care workers faced job demands and stresses never experienced before, putting their own lives on the line, as the world witnessed the devastation caused by an engineered and mysterious virus with potentially calamitous consequences. Consequences which, even to this day, remain incompletely understood. Does anyone believe that their reward should be the threat of expulsion from their profession? Do we adhere to the notion that those wary of vaccination should be punished, even persecuted?

Contrary to early expectations, the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines has been disappointing. Although they tend to attenuate the severity of the illness, claims of protection from disease and the halting of viral transmission have proven false. Cases abound of infected patients who were previously vaccinated but continue to spread the virus.

If the justification for health care worker vaccination is the prevention of conveyance the case is weak at best. If it is a mitigating measure, aimed at limiting or lessening the severity of disease, why are hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers subject to the rule but physicians' offices exempt? Is viral transmission more likely in a hospital ward than in a physician's office? And why the religious exclusions? Do people with certain religious beliefs represent a lower risk to society at large? Besides, are personal, intellectual and philosophical convictions of lesser value than those of an organized church? Indeed why is anyone exempt? If vaccination is the answer to ending the pandemic why do our elected representatives remain free to choose? Why, in its unfailing wisdom, has our government not instituted a universal mandate?

Health care workers who quit their jobs or allow themselves to be terminated for refusing the vaccine are, in most cases, patriots who value liberty. They will not crumple under the foot of authority or embrace the edicts of their captors. They maintain critical thinking and the freedom to choose. I hope we still all do. Those who decide to comply under the threat of termination do so reluctantly, because of their obligations to their families and others. Sadly, the heavy hand of government is forcing them into an inevitable conflict.

This administration is pursuing its agenda with fanatic determination, driving health care workers out of their jobs, at a time when they are needed most, and depriving them of their livelihood.

Recently, when the Henry Ford Hospital imposed its own vaccine mandate, one thousand nursing jobs became vacant. The hospital responded by the importation of five hundred nurses from the Philippines. No such action would have been possible without the full consent and cooperation of federal authorities, eager to expedite a process that would normally take years to complete. Without compunction, they were ready to replace disobedient citizens by docile foreigners. So whose country is it, anyway? Is this government for the people or is this government we must fear? In Thomas Jefferson's words, is this not tyranny?

That the mRNA molecule does not integrate a recipient's DNA is of little relevance to the average vaccine objector. The uncertainty regarding the long-term side effects of the vaccine is what is troubling. For

those at risk of severe disease or death from COVID-19 vaccination is the obvious right choice. For those who risk little from a COVID infection it is the vaccine that constitutes the greater risk.

Respectfully,

Farid Naffah, MD, MS, FACG, AGAF.