

## Public Hearing 11/8 Written Out Testimony

My name is Jamie Lamb. I am a small business owner, specifically a certified doula operating in the Central Pennsylvania region in hospitals and homes. As a doula, I am hired independently by families to assist them with physical, mental, and emotional support through pregnancy and postpartum. I am the unbiased team member who provides education and advocacy resources, so families understand their birth rights and have a trusted and familiar face through one of the most beautiful yet sometimes challenging time of their lives. I believe my role in family's lives have been amplified these last two years as we recognize the importance of having educated advocates within the hospital system. It is vitally important for people to have the right to choose an advocate who they trust to be in their birth space.

I could go on and on about how this pandemic from the beginning has been mismanaged and has stripped women and their families of their rights. But that's not why I'm here today. I'm here today for you to understand that these vaccine mandates not only effect the employees, and many dear healthcare workers I personally know, but it is affecting your state's small business owners as well. One of them being myself.

As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, certified doulas who could not provide vaccine proof of Covid-19 were barred from entering a specific hospital in Lancaster County. Myself and several other doulas found ourselves scrambling, with NO notice I may add, to notify our current clients who were scheduled to give birth there. Many of these clients found themselves without their trusted support and advocates they had worked with for months. As small business owners, we were forced to let families out of their contracts, refund money, and figure out what this would mean for our businesses moving forward.

A ¼ of my estimated income will be lost simply because I can no longer work in this hospital because of their unconstitutional mandates. Now there are currently two more local hospital networks mandating the Covid-19 Vaccine and I see the writing on the wall. If this continues I will either be forced to close down or pivot and solely work with homebirth families. I absolutely love what I do and want to continue supporting families that choose, or simply need to birth in the hospital. But I will not comply with this vaccine and mandate. I won't because myself and many other honest healthcare professionals are seeing the ramifications of this vaccine.

Vaccine injury is not rare, and this Covid-19 Vaccine is no exception. Miscarriage, stillbirth, postpartum hemorrhaging, placental issues, upticks in preeclampsia, babies being born with heart issues and mothers unable to produce breastmilk; these are just some of the issues we've seen a major uptick in since this vaccine has been rolled out. And may I add, these are issues that only a dozen healthcare providers locally I have talked with have personally seen. (We know, these are the same issues being silenced all around the country!)

But these healthcare workers will not speak out because of the consequences that could be implemented by their co-workers and employers. I hope to be a voice for all of them today.

When we step back and look at the big picture, we need to take pause and ask Why. Some, if not all of these mothers who have received the vaccine were told by their providers that is it, "safe & effective". That phrase is thrown around so carelessly. People are not being given full informed consent and these

mandates are making it worse. People are afraid of losing their livelihoods and putting their physical health on the line to appease employers and the government. This is wrong.

When will the majority rise up and start listening to the "WHY" behind the individual's choice to not comply? Where there is risk, there must be choice. I'm telling you, there is a definite risk, and before we completely destroy our state's economy, we need to reconsider the ramifications of these mandates on employees and small business owners.