

[Insert Stephanie's introduction/bio]

Since its inception in 2015, PCIC has been working to preserve personal freedom and human right to informed consent, privacy, and choice for medical procedures in Pennsylvania while working with our legislators on policies that protect these freedoms. We are a grassroots, volunteer-run organization with representation from across our great Commonwealth. The need to fight for the right to bodily autonomy, informed consent, and medical freedom is not new to our organization, but since March of 2020, PCIC has been overrun with continual requests for help from employees who are fearful of losing their jobs.

Over the last 20 months, Pennsylvanians have made great sacrifices— many of which have been because of overreaching policies implemented by the government. Now, because employers are implementing mandatory vaccination policies along with President Biden's new OSHA requirements, employees are being coerced into taking a medical intervention in order to keep their job. Pennsylvania citizens facing these mandates are exhausted by the way they are being treated by their employers and are hesitant to share information unless there will be real action taken. While employers in the past have had required dress codes or required behavioral standards while an employee is at work, never before have employers crossed the line by demanding access to employees' bodies in this way. It is unconscionable that employers are demanding that employees inject what many feel is a risky substance inside their body that can never be removed. Our bodies are sacred and should be untouchable to our employers.

We have heard from members who have been forced to quit their jobs because of the mandate, but they are unable to speak out due to legal silencing contracts they have been forced into signing. Additionally, we are hearing that companies and government entities — including CHOP; CVS; Shannondell, a retirement community; The Hershey Company; Wellspan; Penn State University, and Allegheny County— are denying employees their religious and/or medical exemption requests. How is it that employers are making decisions about whether an individual's religious beliefs are sincere and true when our freedom to practice any religion is protected by the United States Constitution, Title VII of The Civil Rights Act of 1964, and The PA Human Relations Act?

Some employees' exemptions were accepted, and they are not facing termination; instead, they are being penalized financially. Some members have reported that because they are choosing not to be vaccinated, their health insurance premium is increasing. Others are being required to submit to regular testing at their own expense. Several employees report that they cannot see clients in the office and most work from home, severely limiting their potential to make money. Many employees have hefty student loan debt they took on for their job. Some have trained for years for a job, all to be lost if they do not comply. Several members have reported that after being fired for not complying with mandatory testing, they cannot collect unemployment. While some are applying for exemptions and then waiting for employers to terminate them, others are making the impossible choice to resign or leave jobs that some have had for

decades because of the mandates. Healthcare workers report that they put themselves at risk caring for Covid patients, got the covid virus, and now have natural immunity, but they are still being forced to take an unnecessary risk with a covid vaccine they don't want in order to keep their job. These are choices that people should not have to be making because of a vaccine mandate that infringes on their bodily autonomy.

According to the CDC's website¹, "COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting you from COVID-19, especially severe illness and death. COVID-19 vaccines can reduce the risk of people spreading the virus that causes COVID-19." No where does it claim that being fully vaccinated will prevent a person from getting the disease or spreading the disease altogether. Because of this, the mandatory vaccination policies being implemented by businesses do not make sense, AND they infringe upon a person's right to bodily autonomy and medical freedom.

Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, prominent medical professionals and public health officials have been priming the American people to believe that the only way out of the restrictions, lockdowns, and more is through vaccination. Discussion of natural immunity has been ignored or worse- undermined- by claims that we have not studied this novel coronavirus enough to know if natural immunity is long-lasting. This is simply false. We have always had data about natural immunity post-infection of other SARS coronaviruses. Yes, SARS-COV-2 is a different virus, but we cannot throw out what we already know about this family of viruses. In a July 2020 article published in *Nature*², scientists showed that although antibodies against SARS-COV infection had waned after 2-3 years post natural infection, memory T cells for SARS-COV remained present 11 years post infection. Further, more and more studies are being released with data that shows SARS-COV-2 memory T cells also respond in a similar way. In an article published this past July in the journal *Cell Reports Medicine*³, scientists show that after conducting a longitudinal analysis of data, durable and broad immune memory with persistent antibody responses and memory B and T cells post infection. In other words, patients that recover from COVID-19 mount a strong immune response. These are just snippets from an ever growing body of research being published on this topic which is being ignored by public health officials, medical professionals, government leaders, and the media.

The current vaccination campaign is a one size fits all medicine approach in a world where we know that each individual is unique. Each of us are different, and we work with our trusted medical professionals to tailor treatment accordingly. This one size fits all medicine approach to vaccination does not work and will only result in injury that cannot be reversed or worse, death. As time goes on, more and more people are coming forward to share about their experiences being injured by a Covid-19 vaccine. Just Tuesday, a group of vaccine-injured individuals spoke during a panel discussion

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

² <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2550-z?fbclid=IwAR1M0vQljGVORlq3fpDIzvi3veuYLVnQYphcUE1OVk3HwrF1KhGFSxhtHMs>

³ [https://www.cell.com/cell-reports-medicine/fulltext/S2666-3791\(21\)00203-2?_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS2666379121002032%3Fshowall%3Dtrue](https://www.cell.com/cell-reports-medicine/fulltext/S2666-3791(21)00203-2?_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS2666379121002032%3Fshowall%3Dtrue)

along with doctors and medical researchers at our nation's capital that was held by U.S. Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin⁴. Their stories are heart-wrenching, and they represent a growing group of citizens who are being ignored by our medical professionals and government. Their stories show that one size fits all medicine is not appropriate, and vaccine mandates implemented by employers or the government are unsafe.

To track injuries as the vaccine is given to the general public, healthcare professionals are to report adverse events to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS). This system is unreliable. In 2011 study from Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Inc.⁵ and submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, it was reported that "Adverse events from vaccines are common but underreported, with less than one percent reported to the FDA. Low reporting rates preclude or delay the identification of "problem" vaccines, potentially endangering the health of the public. New surveillance methods for drug and vaccine adverse effects are needed." This report did not result in any changes to VAERS or further study of the system that we are utilizing today.

Finally, none of the COVID vaccines available in the USA have been approved or licensed by the FDA, but instead have been authorized for emergency use. The Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine is the only COVID vaccine that is FDA approved and it is not available anywhere in the USA. Based on Section E of FDA Guidance Documents for Emergency Use Authorization of Medical Products and Related Authorities⁶, EUA law requires that recipients of EUA products are informed "that they have the option to accept or refuse the EUA product and of any consequences of refusing administration of the product; and of any available alternatives to the product and of the risks and benefits of available alternatives." The only option being given to employees is to either take an experimental emergency use authorized vaccine or lose your job and your income and your ability to support your family. The Merriam- Webster definition of **coerce** is "to make (someone) do something by using force or threats". The threat of poverty is a serious threat. The Nuremberg Code of 1947⁷ states that with medical experimentation, "The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential. This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and

⁴ <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/2021/11/video-release-sen-ron-johnson-what-is-the-rationale-for-the-mandates-there-is-no-rationale>

⁵ <https://digital.ahrq.gov/ahrq-funded-projects/electronic-support-public-health-vaccine-adverse-event-reporting-system>

⁶ <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/emergency-use-authorization-medical-products-and-related-authorities>

⁷ <http://www.cirp.org/library/ethics/nuremberg/>

enlightened decision.” Why are we not honoring the National EUA law or the International Nuremberg code? Employee rights are being trampled upon.

Today you will have the opportunity to hear from those who are standing up to share their stories. We are thankful that you are taking the time to hear about their experiences and the sacrifices they are making in order to stand up for their convictions. We hope these stories will move you to action to protect Pennsylvanians’ right to medical freedom and bodily autonomy.