

PUBLIC COMMENTS

SB 966

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: May 10, 2021 10:00 AM

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Bob Nevens

representing all those that have or are being faced with termination of employment for not taking the covid vaccine

Kingwood, TX

My name is Bob Nevens, I am here representing myself this morning, and I whole heartedly support SB966. I was the Director of Corporate Risk for the last ten years at Houston Methodist Hospital System. I was terminated April 29th after refusing to adhere to their brand new mandatory covid vaccine policy. My position was not clinical, I never interacted with patients, and because of covid I had worked from home effectively for the past year.

It is heartbreaking to have this happen. My civil rights and liberties have been trampled on. I have been retaliated and discriminated against for choosing personal conviction and personal health choices over complying with a brand-new vaccine policy that violates federal laws and the constitution. I am not against vaccines by any stretch, just ones that are experimental, unapproved, and where the providers, hospitals, and manufacturers are shield from liability.

And while HM leadership continues to say the vaccines are 100% safe, these vaccines do have side effects. I had access to see employees who reported reactions to the vaccines and while most were mild, some of them were severe. In addition, the leadership there continues to make misleading statements to their employees in their efforts to push the vaccine on them. As example, Dr. Rob Phillips, CEO of the HM Physician Organization state in an April 8th email to all employees:

“An Emergency Use Authorization is a form of FDA approval.” That is misleading. An authorization is not an approval. In fact, each EUA states the vaccine is not FDA approved.

He goes on to state:

“The vaccines have gone through the same trials that other drugs use.” That is 100% misleading. Let me quote from the Pfizer EUA. It states, “The Pfizer-BioNTech covid 19 vaccine has not undergone the same type of review as an FDA approved or cleared product.”

Unless you have your eyes shut and blinders on, it is easy to see what is happening here. Covid should not dictate our way of life and limit our liberties.

Like millions of Americans, all I wanted was to wait until the vaccines are licensed and approved by the FDA and make a well informed, scientific based decision. I prayed for a compromise, but the organization was unwilling to grant extend time or accommodate a ten-year, high performing, highly rated employee. Many of these HM employees facing this decision may live paycheck to paycheck, a large percentage are minorities, and they will be forced into doing something they may not agree with or feel comfortable doing just keep food on the table and pay their mortgage. They will get no severance just as I didn't. I believe in what I'm doing. I believe in personal freedoms. I have fallen on this sword in hopes that it helps others that could soon face the same horrible, life changing, anxiety filled decision. Texas needs you. America needs you. Please vote YES on SB 966. One last comment, Texas should be following the footsteps of Florida in protecting our liberties.