

Proponent Testimony - Written and Oral

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Senate District 3

Madam Chair Gossage, Vice Chair Erickson, and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak out on an issue that has great relevance for every person in our state: health freedom. When Ketanji Brown-Jackson was asked the simple question, “What is a woman?”, she couldn’t define the concept, and, according to USA Today, “Jackson, appearing confused, responded, ‘I’m not a biologist.’” Who would have thought that questions that used to be simple have become so very complicated? Here is another simple question that we don’t seem to have a clear answer to: Who has control over one’s body: the individual or the government? Similar to “What is a woman?”, it is hard to believe that this question needs to even be asked, yet, if you look at the slate of bills that this committee is charged with considering, that is the fundamental question behind all of them: Who has control over one’s body? Quoting economist Ludwig Von Mises, “If one abolishes man’s freedom to determine his own consumption, one takes all freedoms away.” There is a lot at stake in all these bills.

If we don’t respond to the lessons of 2020, we will have a redux of the regrettable covid response should anything like it ever happen again. I don’t need to tell you, because you already know, but as a reminder—people were denied treatment—for covid or other health issues, effective treatments for covid were withheld, people were subjected to fearmongering, constant testing, forced quarantining, and travel, school, and job restrictions. Once Pfizer and Moderna had a shot ready, the mandates began and people formed two camps—the anti-vaxx group and the vaxx-or-else group. Knowing what we know now, we have no excuse to let this happen again. In my family, we had to have frank discussions about how we would live should my husband lose his job for not taking the vaccine. My son was facing the possibility of having to pay back a 120 thousand dollar college ROTC scholarship due to not being able to train. We found out there is a definite price to pay in this ‘free’ country when your convictions, religious or otherwise don’t match up with the State. Is that where we are in this country? The State has become our god and even though it is imperfect, we must obey with no questions asked?

This is the anti-thesis of Americanism. The government exists to protect our individual rights. When we give government the power to tell us what to do as opposed to what NOT to do, we have given that government a blank check. Frankly, the last few years have done untold damage on families, on society, and on the economy. And, we the victims won’t let you forget—from the special session to the following session, to this session—until you take action to protect people, we will hound you and hound you. Who has control over one’s body? Until we change something, the answer to that is that the GOVERNMENT does.

SB 390 needs to pass this committee. A public health emergency may come again. Enacting the conscientious right to refuse act to prohibit discrimination against individuals to refuse medical care and creating a civil cause of action based on such discrimination. We need to repeal the authority of the secretary of health and environment to quarantine individuals and impose associated penalties.