



Dear Committee Members,

My name is Kala Miller, and I am a nurse practitioner. All of the opinions in this testimony are representing myself and not my employer or my profession. I am writing in support of SB20-084. I am unfortunately unable to make it to testify in person as I have recently started a new job and I do not yet have vacation time. I took a different job largely in part because I was forced against my conscience, better judgment and will by my previous employer to be vaccinated with the influenza vaccine last season. I was unfairly threatened to choose between getting my influenza vaccine and losing my job. At that time, I could not afford to lose my job, and I was given less than 24 hours to make a decision about what I would do. This is not something I want to ever have to go through again, as my job is the primary income for my family. I should not have to choose between feeding my family and paying the bills and being forced to inject something into my body that I believe is doing more harm to me than good.

After researching the influenza vaccine I have found it to be one of the least effective and most risky vaccinations on the market (according to VAERS reports for injuries per vaccinations). It is a well-known fact that each year the influenza vaccines are less than 50% effective for the predominant strains of influenza in any given year, and a lot of times it is much less effective than 50%. Nurses in Canada have recently won a legal battle against mandatory influenza vaccines and the requirements for nurses that are not vaccinated to have to wear surgical masks throughout the influenza season. This is because there is a lack of evidence that shows higher numbers of healthcare workers being vaccinated is beneficial to anyone, patients included. There is actually growing research that shows each year an individual receives an influenza vaccine it is less effective, and a vaccinated individual may actually be up to 5 times more likely to become ill with a non-influenza respiratory illness compared to individuals not vaccinated against influenza. Also, if the influenza vaccine helps decrease the severity of influenza symptoms, then individuals receiving the influenza vaccine are more likely than individuals not

vaccinated to continue to work while actually being infected with the influenza virus, and therefore pose a greater risk to the at-risk individuals often cared for by healthcare workers.

No individual should have to choose between being coerced and/or forced against his/her will and/or conscience to receive an injection that poses potentially great health risks and keeping his/her job. Please pass SB20-084 out of committee and give healthcare workers some much needed protection against discrimination based on whether or not he/she is vaccinated against certain illnesses. Thank you for your consideration and fair dealings with this matter.