Dear Senator or Representative XXXXX

Please support strong protections for our fundamental liberties, including those articulated in the Bill of Rights. Currently, there is a bill before the Massachusetts legislature, S.1122, that seeks to codify the fundamental human right to bodily autonomy for all persons. Among other things, S.1122 (“An Act relative to bodily autonomy and family integrity”) provides that:

“No person shall be compelled by law to acquiesce to medical treatments or procedures, collection of specimens, or sharing of personal data or medical information.”

“A person’s fundamental rights to privacy, travel, and speech afforded under the United States Constitution shall not be infringed upon to impede the making of decisions for themselves or for their dependents, including, but not limited to, health and medical care, including complementary and alternative healthcare services, education, employment, travel, and lifestyle preferences.”

Additionally, S.1122 protects this fundamental human right to bodily autonomy by outlawing coercive measures by employers. The bill states that: “No employer shall terminate the employment of an employee solely on the basis of the employee’s choice to engage or not engage with medical treatment.”

While the human right to bodily autonomy seems as self-evident to me as the fact that we, as human beings, are created equal—and that among our unalienable rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—there is also a pragmatic reason why liberals and conservatives should both support S.1222: today’s medical orthodoxy is sometimes tomorrow’s harmful, discredited treatment. The history of medicine provides abundant examples. Moreover, as the integrative/functional/holistic approach to medicine has shown, the same medical interventions—just like the same types of food—can have widely different effects on different individuals, and what can help one person can harm another. For these and other pragmatic reasons, we should all demand that our governments at all levels protect our fundamental human right to bodily autonomy.

First & Last Name
City, MA