Dear Senator or Representative XXXXX

Subject: Please help stop discriminatory and coercive policies, Support S1122

Please support Massachusetts Bill S1122, ‘An Act relative to bodily autonomy and family integrity’. The bill protects bodily autonomy and family integrity, as well as providing strong protections against all forms of discrimination for employees against unfair termination based upon medical treatment choice.

Last October of 2020, New England Journal of Medicine published a paper delineating 6 strategies for policy-makers to implement to increase uptake of Covid-19 vaccines. These strategies include band-wagon marketing techniques, financial incentives, gifts, promoting a sense of collective civic duty, etc. The last strategy – if all others fail – is the implementation of punishments by either: suspending employment or forcing citizens who defer taking the vaccine to be prevented from freely moving about in society. To quote Strategy 6:

“*Nevertheless…relatively substantive penalties could be justified, including employment suspension or stay-at-home orders for persons in designated high-priority groups who refuse vaccination. Neither fines nor criminal penalties should be used, however… Both are bad public health policy for a Covid-19 vaccine because they may stoke distrust without improving uptake.”*

The NEJM paper also suggests that ‘stakeholder groups’ like local health officers, health professional and hospital associations, and representatives (leaders) of high-risk population groups implement these policies of coercion while ‘vaccine manufacturers should stay on the sidelines’ out of the limelight. Such a scenario would mean that the medical establishment and biotech manufacturers determine not only a person’s informed consent, they also obstruct a persons’ employment, livelihood, and ability to function in society. This recommendation is medical overreach on steroids.

This is precisely why S1122 is necessary and important for all of us who live in Massachusetts. No medical entity or private business has the right to obstruct me or any MA citizen from practicing our constitutional right to earn a living or move freely in society due to refusing any medical treatment. S1122 assures that employers cannot penalize employees for medical decisions; further it provides legal and financial recourse for employees to use if a business exceeds its authority by unjustly terminating anyone for personal medical decisions.

Please support S1122 and help ensure that the hard-working people of our Commonwealth are protected from the abuse of power delineated in last year’s NEJM policy paper. Thank you.

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2020926>

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