

Liberty Counsel Seeks Relief From Vaccine Mandate for Chicago Health Care Workers

Liberty Counsel filed a brief today asking the federal District Court of Illinois to conditionally certify the entire class of health care workers to include them in the emergency relief against the COVID shot mandate at NorthShore University HealthSystem.

On Nov. 1, Judge John F. Kness issued a temporary restraining order against NorthShore on behalf of 14 health care workers. The court said the plaintiffs are likely to prevail on Title VII and the Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act. The court set Nov. 16 for a preliminary injunction hearing at which Liberty Counsel will seek protection for all NorthShore employees for the duration of the lawsuit.

Hundreds of NorthShore health care employees who requested religious accommodations from the “Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy” are already at home on unpaid leave—all of them victims of NorthShore’s unlawful, generalized, uniform, across-the-board “no accommodation” policy.

NorthShore previously granted exemptions for some employees but then denied them in mid-September. Those denials were either without explanation or because the requests failed to meet some so-called “evidence-based criteria” that NorthShore never provided the employees in advance. NorthShore then only gave employees three business days to file an appeal without stating what was missing in the original application. In that appeal, NorthShore also apparently judged the validity of their religious beliefs by requiring them to include their entire vaccination history since the age of 18. However, NorthShore never requested employees to provide prior vaccine

information in their initial exemption requests.

After denying these employees, NorthShore also changed its exemption form to include a warning that all religious objections based on “aborted fetal cell lines, stem cells, tissue or derivative materials will result in denials.” NorthShore is falsely deceptive in that form by stating that the COVID-19 injections have no link to aborted fetal cell lines and refuting the religious beliefs of health care workers who object to the undeniable connection of the injections to aborted fetal cell lines.

Illinois law dictates that employees at NorthShore University HealthSystem have the fundamental right to determine what medical care to accept and refuse. In fact, Illinois has a Health Care Right of Conscience Act that provides strong protection to all residents against discrimination based on health care choices. It states: “It shall be unlawful for any person, public or private institution, or public official to discriminate *against any person in any manner*, including but not limited to, licensing, hiring, promotion, or any other privileges, because of such person’s conscientious refusal to receive, obtain, accept or participate in any way *in any particular form of health care services contrary to his or her conscience*” (emphasis added).

Liberty Counsel founder and Chairman Mat Staver said, “We are pleased that the recent court ruling gave emergency relief to Liberty Counsel’s 14 plaintiffs who were threatened to be terminated by NorthShore University HealthSystem for their religious beliefs. However, we are asking the court to provide this same relief for all of NorthShore’s employees whose religious exemption requests against the COVID shots have been unlawfully denied.” {eo}

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