

I strongly SUPPORT HB 1376. I am a Registered Nurse. I was given an ultimatum last September; I was to take an EUA injection, or I would have to resign. I submitted an exemption request for both the annual flu shot and the EUA covid shots, which I was unable to even submit without attesting that I would “willfully resign” if an accommodation could not be made for my request. I was given a deadline to comply and receive the injections. My hospital stated they were able to make accommodations for the annual flu shot this year, however, my exemption request was denied for the EUA covid shots. I was placed into suspension status because I did not unwillingly inject an EUA substance into my body. The final deadline for compliance with the covid shot mandate for healthcare workers at my facility was January 4, 2022, despite falling covid case rates and related hospitalizations. I adamantly stated via email that I was not willfully resigning, and that I love my job and would like to return with an accommodation for exemption from the covid injections. They “resigned” me on January 5, 2022. Why were they able to make an exemption accommodation for the flu shot, but not for the covid shots?

I am a seasoned nurse with over a decade of experience in specialties from Intensive Care to Outpatient Clinic, and everywhere in between. I have the knowledge and skill to care for patients anywhere in the hospital, yet I was not permitted to work, even though local hospitals were portraying a “staffing crisis”. We are in desperate need of a streamlined exemption process for medical, religious, and philosophical circumstances, especially in the case of annually recommended injections like the flu shot and coming soon, the covid booster. It is also worth noting that an EUA substance cannot and should not be mandated for anyone under any circumstances, and employers should be required to honor that as well.