

Dear, Honorable Mayor and Regina city council members,

I am addressing you today as an extraordinarily, concerned citizen of Regina, in regards to the Covid vaccine passport that has not yet been voted on but is set to be implemented for the city employees today and for the tax paying citizens on September 20th.

I am here today not to address the city council on whether this Covid vaccine is safe or not, or whether a person should get it or not. I am not a medical expert nor against vaccinations. I am here today to address with you a more concerning problem of the precedent and consequences of this vaccine passport.

I am appealing to you to consider the implications of such a system on our society. I am a teacher and a great lover of history and seek to teach it as accurately and diligently as I can, to my children and students. For this and many other reasons, I am gravely concerned with the precedent that this kind of passport system will set in motion for our city. It has already started to breed fear and has begun the labeling of people as safe or unsafe. History shows us that what follows from this fear is ignorance, discrimination, bullying, verbal and physical violence, segregation, persecution, and injustice.

I know you are a city council who denounces coercion as a means to change people, as you recently passed a law that bans conversion therapy. I ask you to consider if implementing a passport like the one you are, is the reverse for the unvaccinated people, now enforcing a coercive, conversion therapy of sorts on those who are not Covid vaccinated. I ask you to critically think what direction a passport system, like this, based on personal medical information tells the public? It sets it up to be 'us and them' language which will cause divisions, fights and violence in our society. I ask you what do you want the city of Regina to be known for? I wonder what you would think if someone had imposed this system on the LGBTQ community? Or on HIV/AIDS infected persons?

In our current culture, we have already begun the process of creating an 'us and them' system within our educational institutions, will we do this in our city run institutions too? Right now the message being conveyed to students is that you cannot get a secondary education or an in person learning experience, if you or your adult family members are not Covid vaccinated. I wonder is this not contrary to the inclusive language that the educational system has prided itself on trying to promote within education? Are we not undoing years of discussions, work to get students to understand that all citizens are valuable no matter their race, creed, colour, physical ability or health status. When we look back at this time in history will those who chose not to be Covid vaccinated now be the citizens with horrific tales to tell of abuses done to them at the hands of angry, scared ignorant people who believed a narrative that, the unvaccinated were dangerous and contagious? When you look back on your legacy and your time, in this elected position, where, your constituents saw fit to trust you to represent them, and lead them in good directions, will you be found to have contributed to the persecution and segregation of innocent people?

I am asking you to not implement Covid restrictions based on a person's Covid vaccination status because you think it will somehow coerce citizens to do what you deem safest. I am asking you to allow them to make their own personal decisions at their own pace. I am begging you to let the Covid vaccine do what the health care system claims it will do, let the science speak for itself. Over time those individuals who are just hesitant to get the vaccine because it is experimental, will eventually get it because they believe it has value. I wonder, do you not want citizens who value time, tested

information, who patiently wait to know all the facts to make measured decisions? Do you not want citizens who make calm calculated responses instead of fear based crisis driven reactions? In addition, for those who hold deep seated values against vaccines, of any kind, and hold their beliefs strongly. As elected officials, you, have never sought to coercively to change their minds before on the issue of vaccinations, like polio, meningitis or measles, so I wonder why now? I am wondering do you not trust your own citizens to make choices that take care of their neighbours? We refrained from going out when sick before covid vaccinations, we washed our hands before covid vaccinations, most of us got our other vaccinations up to date before Covid was an issue. Why now do you show such distrust in your own citizens? Can you a stranger, really care better for our own individual families and community situations?

Finally, I am appealing to you today on behalf of the good and trustworthy laws of our land. Laws that we are to all be under the authority of and that you as elected officials are to uphold. Laws set in place to protect against discriminating against anyone for any reason. Do you really want city employees who work the front desks to be asking personal medical information from the patrons? Are they qualified? Does this not put your city employees in very precariously legal dilemmas where in they could be and will most likely be held liable for any damages whether physical or mentally caused by denying a person services, services that are actually in part paid for by the public. In addition, does this not put human resources and management in tough spots, having to track and decide every shift if an unvaccinated employee's personal health tests were negative, will this not eventually cause you to lose valuable, trustworthy staff? Should not you be testing all your staff every shift since Covid vaccinated people can spread virus too?

In conclusion, what I am asking is that you make your decision today, on this Covid passport, on history. I am pleading with you to consider past histories and learn from and avoid the errors made by those who have gone before in similar matters. If every child matters and every citizen matters to you then how does this passport system not say there are some citizens that are better than others? If you are for inclusion how does this passport say all are welcome no matter what you choose to do with your own body? If you value consistency and logic, then these passports do little to stop the spread of the virus anyway, since fully vaccinated people also spread the virus. If you stand for truth then you really must admit the science has been ever changing in the Covid pandemic. So I ask you what is the harm in letting time pass to allow people a chance to have all the facts before they get some foreign substance put in their own bodies? If you stand for justice and hate discrimination in all its forms then please see that this passport system will breed a society of suspicion, fear, and segregation, the exact thing our society says, it is trying to abolish.

I end today with this, I do not envy the positions each of you are in. We live in an age that is overwhelmed with ever changing information and to take it all in and make good, just decisions takes wisdom and discerning minds. I want so much for your vote to be based on critical thought, truth and love and concern for all your citizens, not on fear, anger or prejudice. I ask you to consider what could be in store for many of those in your charge who really do not believe the vaccine as their best course of health care, right now. I am praying for you all and I thank you for your time in this very important matter.

Larissa Munchinsky