September 20, 2021

I am writing to request a religious exemption from covering my face with a mask or shield, and to abstain from covid testing and covid vaccines because these are violations of my sincerely-held religious beliefs.

As a Christian and a member of the Body of Christ, my sincerely-held religious beliefs are an all-encompassing aspect of my life. My religious beliefs are protected and guaranteed by the US Constitution and the Constitution of this state.

I consult the Bible for strength and affirmation of the word of God, and I rely on the Bible to guide me through adversity and challenge. I believe that the Bible is a framework for modern day life and I reference the Bible for help in making important life decisions, including my physical and mental health.

**My sincerely-held Christian beliefs DO NOT ALLOW ME to:**

-put any type of mask, shield or covering over my face, as I am made in the image of God and I am to stand before Him with my face unveiled (2 Cor 3:18).

- be assaulted by a foreign body being inserted into my nasal passages (i.e., covid test) as my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and is to remain pure.

- have a biological substance injected into my body. My blood is sacred and life is found in the blood. My own salvation was bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ and I CANNOT taint my own blood with vaccines. The Bible warns against this and it is not possible for me to violate my sincerely-held Christian beliefs.

 **TITLE VII OF THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS ACT PROHIBITS RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION**

Religious creed includes my dress and my grooming practices – **including what I put on my head or face, and what I do with my body** – as a part of my religious expression.

**COVID VACCINES and COVID TESTS:**

The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and as such, should not be used for medical treatments that are unnecessary, and abhorrent. Substances in the test and the vaccine are possibly harmful to the human body, and we are called to protect the body and not harm it.

**FACE COVERINGS:**

I do not cover my face, with a mask or shield, as I am made in the image of God, and as an image-bearer of God, I must stand before him with my face unveiled. (If I ever had covered my face in the past, I realize now how that has grieved my Creator, and I will not cover my face again, in accordance with my sincerely-held religious beliefs.)

**Wearing a mask** is an affront to my Christian beliefs and I cannot go against God’s law in covering my face. As an image-bearer of God, I must stand before him with my face unveiled.

I am a Christian. I am not a Muslim. Muslims veil their faces, not Christians. Wearing a mask is an affront to my Christian beliefs and I cannot go against God’s law in covering my face.

God created me in his image and I will not and cannot cover my face with a mask, face-covering, shield or any other device.

The Bible shows us that only prostitutes and those who hide their face in shame cover their face. I am neither, and I will not and cannot cover my face at any time for any reason, in accordance with my sincerely-held religious beliefs, which are protected by state and federal law.

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE I AM A DIRECT THREAT TO OTHERS

There is no evidence that I am carrying an infectious disease, so the defense of me being a “direct threat” has not been established and is therefore not valid. A licensed medical doctor who has examined me would have to determine that I am a threat and since there is not court order of quarantine against me, there is no evidence I am a threat to others.

My religious rights and my right to privacy are protected by the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of this State.

I have the right to refuse consent – without being discriminated against, such as being required to stay home or be excluded from other activities.

MY REQUESTED ACCOMMODATION

My request for accommodation is that I do not consent to getting a covid vaccine, taking a covid test or wearing a mask, shield or other face covering. I seek to participate normally in all duties, responsibilities, activities and events without any form of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, separation or segregation.

There are no special requirements needed. I am not asking for a special room to be constructed just for me; I do not need a separate entrance; there is no need for a special air filtration system, separate office or any other accommodation that would require more than a *di minimis* hardship for this organization.

UNLAWFUL DENIAL OF ACCOMMODATION

If this organization attempts to use a hardship defense, or a “direct threat” defense, the burden of proof is on this organization.

I do not need to defend my position; to the contrary, this organization has to meet a strict standard of proof, providing evidence that my presence as unmasked, untested and unvaccinated (in accordance with my sincerely-held, constitutionally-protected religious beliefs) presents a *direct threat* to the health and safety of others.

The standard of law is strict: no generalization or stereotypes can be applied. It is not lawful to make a blanket assumption that I am carrying an infectious disease that is a *direct threat* to the health and safety of others.

Only a court order, issued from a judge based on the sworn testimony, under penalty of perjury, from a licensed medical doctor who has examined me and has determined that I am carrying an infectious disease, could compel me or anyone to wear a mask, take a covid test or take a covid vaccine.

**Absent a valid and lawful court order (which could be appealed) there is no lawful authority for this organization to compel me to wear a mask, get a covid test or take a covid vaccine.**

Masks and covid tests can also be claimed under a religious exemption. This organization does not have the authority to “pick and choose” which actions and behaviors are abhorrent to my sincerely-held Christian beliefs.

RELIGIOUS-BASED DISCRIMINATION IS AGAINST THE LAW

The burden of proof to refuse to accommodate my sincerely held religious belief is set at a very strict standard. According to law, stereotypes and generalizations are not valid evidence. To say that I am a threat to the health and safety of others simply due to my bare face is akin to saying all Muslims are threats to the health and safety of others because they might be terrorists.

No emergency, pandemic, health orders, executive orders, employment or business policies, rules, recommendations, regulations, guidelines, directives, or measures suspend Constitutional rights. No statute of law has been passed by the U.S. Congress that gives an exemption to this facility to allow for my rights to be violated.

None of these entities has authority to violate my constitutionally-protected rights: government agencies, privately-held businesses, medical settings, and private or public schools.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is the federal agency which investigates complaints against employers, schools (are considered businesses in the eyes of the law) and government agencies. In other religions, people may wear a turban, a hat, wear a robe, even carry a knife as part of their religious expression, and this has been upheld by the Supreme Court many times. Sikh faith members for example, are able to retain their beards in the Army, even when the Army policies require a clean-shaven face. But the Sikh faith member is exempt from this requirement because his religious expression is protected by law.

HARASSMENT, COERCION, INTIMIDATION, UNDUE INFLUENCE ARE AGAINST THE LAW

The law is clear that any segregation, separate treatment, wearing of a badge, name tag, sticker or any other identification that singles me out as unvaccinated, is against the law. This constitutes harassment, intimidation, undue influence, coercion and defamation.

Retaliation is against the law. After a person, such as myself, submits a request for a religious exemption, and then is subjected to retaliation, coercion, harassment, intimidation, undue influence, those are additional violations of the law.

The law is clear that this organization must default to accept my religious beliefs as sincerely held and may only make a reasonable inquiry to clarify my beliefs. I have provided an abundance of information that is above and beyond what is required by law.

No president’s orders, OSHA regulations, CDC guidelines, health orders or school or employer policies supersede the Constitution. I look forward to your constitutionally-valid reply.

Sincerely,

Rachael McFarlane