

Governor Polis signed SB163 today.

My heart is grieving.

Not because I am hopeless, but because it's going to be hard. It's going to be hard for the next few weeks, months, and possibly years. And my heart hurts to see suffering and pain.

Don't be deceived. This bill will affect every family, every person in Colorado. All of us. We are a community, a body. And when one part suffers, all parts suffer. And I'm afraid there is a lot of suffering coming.

Some families will suffer because they have to move out of the state. This is the only way they can protect their child, because the government has decided to play Russian roulette with their life. These amazing parents will move, cheerfully, no matter how exhausted they are, because they love their child dearly, and will do anything to keep them safe. But it will be hard. They will have to buy a new house, find a new job, meet new friends, and grieve the loss of their old ones.

Some families will suffer because they will stay. They will homeschool their children. They will meet new friends, maybe even lose an income to stay home with their children in order to keep them safe, because a few "representatives" in the Colorado government have decided that their connections with Big Pharma are more important than children's lives, and never mind science and statistics. One day soon those same parents will have to break the news to their child that they cannot play sports anymore, and that night they will cry themselves to sleep as they remember their child's pleading tears. Some friendships will be broken, even as new friendships develop. But every loss is a grief. Change is hard. And the unknown future can be scary.

Some families will suffer because they will choose not to have future children. As they look at the world, and the way things are, they will decide not to bring another human into this unsure situation. This will rob them of the many joys they would have experienced because of that child; beginning with the first positive pregnancy test, the first flutter of little feet in mom's belly, and the first time they see their child on an ultrasound. Many, many moments of joy (and struggle) would have followed. But all of those will be missed.

Some families will suffer because they will give more vaccinations to their children, and, simply according to statistics, a percentage of them will have a vaccine injury. If an injury occurs, the parents will likely be told that the vaccine did not cause said symptom, and their child may never receive the help its body needs to recover from that vaccine injury. This is my biggest fear. I have first-hand seen injury, and recovery from vaccines. But no one is taught that you can treat it. This is what sometimes keeps me up at night: the knowledge that there are children who are suffering, and could be helped, but their parents don't yet know that their bodies can be supported to heal!

Some people will suffer because the school is going to lose students, and thus funding. I think a lot of funding. There will be a percentage of children will receive all their vaccinations, have no adverse reactions, and attend school. But school will be different. No one knows how many children will be pulled from school this year because of this law, but estimations are at least 4% of the population. That may not seem like a lot, but at Colorado's current census numbers, 4% is 48,143 children under the age of 18. If this many kids get pulled out of school, teachers may lose their jobs, and receive even fewer resources in the classroom. No one quite knows how the school system will be affected yet, but there is no doubt that it will be affected significantly.

Some of us will suffer because of the economy. Every family that lives in Colorado is contributing to the economy in some way. If those people move out of state, or change or lose their job, we will see a ripple effect through all of our own lives. Some of us may be affected very little, others may be affected greatly. But all of us will feel it.

“Not the most cheery message,” you might say.

I know.

It is heavy. But we have to know the weight of the situation, the reality of the situation, before we can act appropriately. And of course good will come of this, it already has. Greater awareness, new relationships and connections, newfound strengths within ourselves. But right now that comes mingled with pain, loss, and sorrow. Right now it is okay to take a break to grieve. Tears are healing to the heart and soul.

And as Steven Covey teaches, we have an ability to respond in every situation we find ourselves in, no matter how difficult or unfair. You, at this moment, have the ability and response-ability to do something. What is it that you would like to do? What is it that you should do? Where can you relieve suffering in another's life? It doesn't have to be something big. Maybe write an encouraging note to someone. Consider speaking up to the mom at the playground. Perhaps you can repost something on social media. Or give \$5 to help someone's court case. Support the new candidates that are running with a platform in favor of medical freedom. And keep talking.

And don't be silent anymore. Speak for truth. Share your story. Cry with your friends, new or old. And be courageous. And if you can, stay and fight. Let's take back our state and our freedoms!

Because you, dear families, are amazing! Your dedication, love, care, and commitment are beautiful. You inspire and awe me. Don't stop fighting for your children. Don't give up. Keep going!