Civil Liability Legislation Introduced by Representative Nguyen to Protect Arizonans Harmed Due to Employer Vaccination Mandate

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – State Representative Quang Nguyen today introduced HB 2043 civil liability legislation to protect Arizonans from an entity or individual that requires vaccines as a condition of employment. An employer could be held liable for damages if an employee is denied a religious exemption and suffers significant injury caused by the mandated vaccine.

“This is one of the most important bills I’m introducing this coming session,” said Representative Nguyen. “The reality is COVID-19 is going to be with us for a long time. Public and private health mandates are not a good solution and could instead cause harm in some cases. If businesses and employers are intent on mandating vaccinations as a condition of employment, they should be held accountable if their employees face serious harm or illness.”

Some COVID-19 vaccines have already been granted liability protection from the federal government, limiting affected individuals in whom they can seek to hold accountable for an injury. Moreover, current law only provides for an affected individual to seek recourse via the workers’ compensation system. HB 2043 creates a separate pathway for an employee to seek recourse if they have been denied a religious exemption and later suffered a significant injury because of the mandated vaccine.

Should an affected employee prevail in a court of law, they could be entitled to at least $500K in actual damages. They would also be able to seek punitive damages in cases where egregious or malicious conduct has occurred.

Quang Nguyen is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 1, which includes Prescott, and portions of Yavapai and Maricopa Counties. Follow him on Twitter at @QuangNguyenAZ.

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