

**STATEMENT FROM HANDS FOR HEALTH AND FREEDOM  
IN SUPPORT OF LAWSUIT BY HEALTHCARE WORKERS AGAINST NEW YORK STATE  
OFFICIALS OVER ATTEMPTS TO REMOVE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS TO COVID  
MANDATES**

**JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK, NY** – Hands for Health and Freedom (HHF) issued the following statement today regarding a New York state class action lawsuit filed on behalf of New York Healthcare Workers who have been terminated from their employment due to requesting religious exemptions.<sup>1</sup>

The plaintiffs seek an injunction against NY Governor, State Dept of Health, and Attorney General from implementation of Article 78 of the CPLR, which attempts to remove the religious exemption from the COVID vaccine mandate ordered on all medical and health services personnel.

Mermigis Law Group, P.C., in conjunction with Myer and Scher, LLP filed on behalf of New York Healthcare Workers in Jefferson County Court, New York. Attorney James Mermigis, Esq. states, “In what world does the Dept of Health commissioner have the right to remove a right secured for New Yorkers by the First Amendment of the Constitution? Removing a First Amendment right is an egregious violation of New Yorkers’ constitutional rights and therefore an abuse of discretion.”

Excluding COVID-recovered health care workers is arbitrary and capricious as the science shows their immunity is far stronger than any immunity purported to be provided by a COVID vaccine. In addition, “a post COVID vaccine adverse immune response is significantly higher in COVID-recovered individuals, making forced vaccination not just needless but dangerous.”<sup>2</sup>

Petitioners attempted to speak at public meeting related to this issue and were essentially denied access, using a bureaucratic shell game where interested parties were falsely informed the meeting had been canceled and thus did not attend. Petitioners learned after the fact, the meeting did occur, without their dissent on the record.

“Government officials must be stopped from recklessly and needlessly violating Healthcare Workers’ inalienable rights protected by the Constitution.” Attorney Jamie Scher noted.

This lawsuit is just the beginning of uniting New York Healthcare Workers together in the fight to take healthcare back from establishment restrictions.

For Media inquiries:

[Media@HandsforHealthandFreedom.org](mailto:Media@HandsforHealthandFreedom.org)

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<sup>1</sup> [SILENCED! Voices of NYC Healthcare Workers Effectively Silenced by the Department of Health at the Hearing that Unlawfully Decided Their Fate - Hands For Health And Freedom](#)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/labs/pmc/articles/PMC8313055/> Higher incidence of reported adverse events following immunization (AEFI) after first dose of COVID-19 vaccine among previously infected health care workers