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WKU Vaccine Mandate Essay

The coronavirus is a highly infectious virus that broke out in many countries around the world starting in the early months of 2020. The virus is very prevalent in the functions of society, as it has altered the healthcare system and medical safety precautions worldwide. The alarming rate of spread has ended the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. alone, which raises the question of whether or not there is more that can be done. In December of 2020, the COVID-19 vaccination was introduced, as a new way to protect oneself and surrounding people. In early September, President Biden announced a requirement for federal workers and contractors to be vaccinated, in addition to an Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) requirement that all businesses with 100 or more employees must require the vaccine or a weekly negative covid test. This mandate has sparked many divided points of views, relating to whether the federal vaccine mandate is the best way to slow the spread of the coronavirus and increase vaccinations. Vaccinations are the best way to slow the spread of COVID-19 for the safety of the general public and the fact that mandates have worked in the past.

The mandatory vaccination established by President Biden and his administration would provide a sense of safety and security to the general public and oneself. The general welfare of the public is not a convincing enough reason to support the mandate for some people, however it has been established that the safety of society shall not be jeopardized due to such opinions. Judge Justice John Marshall Harlan declared, "...the rights of the individual in respect of his

liberty may at times, under the pressure of great dangers, be subjected to such restraint, to be enforced by reasonable regulations, as the safety of the general public may demand”(Lea). In situations, such as the coronavirus outbreak, enforcement may be the only productive way of ensuring safety. Although relying on natural immunity may have been effective for some people, it does not ensure the safety of the people surrounding them and the duration of antibodies is unknown. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention voiced, “... those with previous Covid cases, who remained unvaccinated, were more than twice as likely to be reinfected than those who had received shots”(Bellafante). Therefore, the mandate is a necessity to provide safety to the population, and it is a reliable way to stop the spread.

A mandatory vaccination mandate has been proven to be effective in previous world epidemics, for example the mandated vaccination for smallpox. Throughout history many deadly viruses have been introduced to the human population, many of which were eradicated by vaccinations. The World Health Assembly announced, “ ... smallpox had been eradicated globally. The eradication was directly tied to the deployment of vaccines against the virus and it has since been considered one of the biggest achievements of international public health”(Lea). COVID-19 and Smallpox can be easily compared due to the similarities in hysteria and rapid spreading, consequently the COVID-19 vaccination could potentially produce similar results. Vaccinations have proved to be successful in the past by slowing the spread and providing a layer of safety. Health officials noted, “Vaccination decreases transmission of the virus and turns hospitalization and death into very unlikely outcomes”(Soave). With this in mind, vaccinations have proved to be an essential component to warrant the health and safety of the public.

Vaccinations are the best way to slow the spread of COVID-19. The mandatory mandate would provide a sense of security to the general public. In high risk situations, such as the coronavirus outbreak, enforcement is the most effective way to ensure the safety of humanity. Vaccinations have consistently been proven in medical history to be a beneficial way of slowing the spread of a virus and eliminating widespread hysteria. By using applicable knowledge from the past, modern society could avail. Ultimately, mandatory Coronavirus vaccinations would be the best way to slow the spread and bring safety to the population.

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