

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** John Lichtenberger <john.lichtenberger121@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 10, 2021 8:21 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** Mask Mandates

An Open Letter to the Mayor and Assembly

10 OCT 2021

My father served in the Army Air Corp as did his brother who was killed over France in WWII. My brother served 20 years in the US Air Force. My father in law flew over 25 missions to France during WWII and two of my brothers in law served in the US Navy. I served in the Juneau Police Department for 21 years. My family and I did this to preserve and protect our freedoms and privilege to make decisions and take risks or not. At age 23 I came to Alaska with \$800.00 and no promise of a job. I celebrate the freedoms my family and anyone who served or is serving have afforded me.

In the past going on two years we have experienced an unprecedented suspension of our civil rights by elected officials. This has been done in response to a virus we initially knew little about. We now know the virus is 99.7% survivable. We have been urged to take a vaccine that is 97% effective. We have been forced to wear masks that may mitigate the spread. I say "may" because in places with restrictive mask mandates they experienced the same degree of ebb and flow of the virus where more personal freedom was allowed.

Some in our republic are mandating vaccines and showing proof of the same with the threat of losing their jobs if they refuse. I have two sons who are nurses in a busy metropolitan area. They work in ER and surgical wards. They and their peers worked through the early days of the virus without the vaccine. They are now in danger of being terminated if they choose not to vaccinate. Front line workers and first responders around the country are now being coerced by the President with Draconian mandates and the threat of being terminated.

Do you realize when I go to the doctor I must sign a HEPPA release for my wife of 30 years to have access to my medical records? Where are we going when elected officials dictate medical treatments not even our doctors can force on us? You have the right to accept or reject any treatment a medical provider may recommend and are required to sign consent prior to treatment.

Our founding fathers understood freedom to take risks and drafted a Constitution to protect that freedom. Many Alaskans choose to work in industries such as fishing, logging and mining where risk is inherent.

Please, as elected officials allow us as a community the freedom to choose if we wear a mask or not. Do not shame or pressure us in whatever we choose. Allow us make our own decisions concerning our health.

Respectfully: John Lichtenberger