

FWA HB699
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My son, Andrew was looking forward to the start of his junior school year at Salisbury University and being back on campus with his friends for the Fall 2021 semester. As required by Salisbury, he went in for his first Covid test the week before school started to get "cleared". He is unvaccinated and had a religious exemption to their vaccination policy. He tested negative. A couple hours later he got a call that no student wants to hear, "you were reported by another student that you were with and she tested positive." This person was vaccinated!

Andrew and his girlfriend had been in the same room with this person for less than 30 minutes. Both he and his girlfriend (who had a medical exemption) were required to quarantine for 14 days and were not allowed on campus. Meanwhile anyone vaccinated only had to test once before classes started and never again throughout the semester.

This started his year off missing his first two weeks of classes. My son had to email all of his professors that he had to quarantine for 14 days and he could not attend any classes.

Vaccinated students quarantined for far less time and while the school said they would not disclose a student's vaccination status, the quarantine time told every teacher that they were not vaccinated. Most of his professors were willing to work with my son, but one professor who was also his advisor was not.

This professor wanted to know why he had been asked to quarantine after testing negative, wanted a copy of the email from campus health, and most egregiously, asked him if he had been vaccinated. My son politely replied and did not answer if he was vaccinated. Again, the professor said, "you did not answer my question if you are vaccinated". (My son was also in a greyed out status until he was tested negative on campus)

This professor had also sent a letter earlier in the summer to anyone registered for his class who had not submitted their vaccination status to the school. In this letter, he encouraged the students to get the shot, stating how safe it was from his personal experience and how wonderful it would be to get back to normal in the fall.

I then ended up calling a Student Affairs representative who seemed mostly upset that this professor had actually put his question about my son being vaccinated in writing. We went back and forth with Student Affairs and the Dean of Students at Perdue School of Business.

Andrew was then moved to a different class (an evening online class again) and given a different advisor. This teacher discriminated against my son because he would not get vaccinated and yet everyone who was getting sick on campus was vaccinated.

I sent letters throughout the semester to President Wright's office and got no reply. His

assistant only directed me to the Student Health Services. Meanwhile the vaccinated students were not allowed to test on campus when they were all coming down with Covid. (This made no sense but I assume that was to keep their numbers down at school).

I kept sending emails to the Schools Health Department and also the Student Affairs and Presidents office asking why none of the vaccinated students were getting tested but they were getting Covid. Most of the time I never got a reply. Once in a while they would say they were following the CDC.

I had sent emails to the President's office about the frustration other students are going through, begging them to take a look at their policies and also testing the vaccinated who are the ones having the "breakthrough" cases. Salisbury said "Protect the Flock" but that was only if you were following their rules about getting Vaccinated otherwise, they did not care about these students.

After a very frustrating fall semester, my son decided to withdraw from Salisbury and enrolled with another school for online classes for the spring semester. With the arrival of the new President and the removal of vaccine mandates and weekly testing, he decided to re-enroll for his junior/senior year and to finish his bachelor's degree. However, he is still behind and will require an additional semester to complete it, costing several thousand extra dollars in tuition and housing, all because he had a religious exemption.

While this is my son's story, many other students were humiliated because they were turned away from their classes. They were turned away even though they had been "cleared" by testing, but their test results never went through to the professors.

I never want students to go through what my son and so many others went through again. The discrimination against them should have never happened. Please support HB 699 with the amendment Vaccination By Choice!