

May 12, 2019

On October 27 1838 the Governor of Missouri issued an executive order based on prejudice and misinformation about a small religious community in his state – Mormons. Missouri officials believed the Mormons were a “pretended” religious sect and an overall threat to the peace of the State. Bogg’s order became known as the Extermination Order. In it he stated that “the Mormons must be treated as enemies and must be exterminated or driven from the State...FOR THE PUBLIC PEACE.” This resulted in Men, Women, and Children being injured, killed and cruelly driven from the state.

Fast forward to the 1940s after Pearl Harbor - Lt. General John L. DeWitt presented false reports to government and military leaders regarding the threat of Japanese citizens living in the US resulting in President Franklin Roosevelt signing Executive Order 9066. The order was enforced for the good of the community to prevent a second Pearl Harbor. So US citizens of Japanese descent were ripped from their homes and interred in isolated camps.

These are just a 2 of many examples in our history where the Government has exercised too much control – where they unjustly targeted certain groups/minorities for the perceived “overall good of the community” causing undue harm to that group.

You may say – these are in the past, we have moved on and transcended above such prejudice and injustices. I say that because our government is even entertaining the idea of removing the religious exemption for vaccinations is PROOF that we are not. Let’s say you take away the religious exemption – what then? Where does it stop? The perceived “good of the community” excuse can be stretched, corrupted, and manipulated (as it is right now) to keep taking away religious freedoms. Shall we also enforce abortions in order to control the population? Shall we recognize only certain religions? Shall we isolate Muslims and put them in concentration camps – for the good of the community?

There are some government leaders who say that people who claim the religious exemption are pretending to have a religious conviction. Does a parallel to history ring a bell here? I tell you there are many people in this state who truly have religious convictions against vaccines – myself included. We have strong beliefs about our bodies being a place where God’s Holy Spirit can dwell and the sanctity of life. Vaccines have many ingredients that are toxic and harmful to our bodies. They also contain aborted fetal tissue. Merck’s MMR II vaccine (as well as the chickenpox, Pentacel ,and all Hep-A containing vaccines) are manufactured using human fetal cell lines and are heavily contaminated with human fetal DNA from the production process. For many, abortion is seen as a sin and so we don’t want to use products made from aborted fetuses – especially inject it in to our bodies.

We are trying our best to show our government leaders why our religious beliefs and practices do not put the community at large at risk. We are fighting the prejudiced and false information perpetuated by certain government leaders and the media that “vaccines are 100% safe” and “the unvaccinated are a threat to the community.” That we (the unvaccinated) are the ones that are “causing life threatening outbreaks and so we must be stopped at all costs for the good of the community! For the good of the children!” Again do you see any parallels to our past here? We are trying to help you see that this reasoning creates a false dilemma. Many of us are sharing our family’s personal experiences, scientific studies, statistics, and historical facts... a luxury many minorities in the past were not given. I hope you are listening because history is trying to repeat itself here. Don’t let it.

Bryn Chandler

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