

unpaid — Black workers.

*Mitsi Wagner, Cleveland*

## **Help struggling nurses by getting vaccinated**

After 24 months of trauma from the coronavirus pandemic, nurses are struggling to stay in the profession. They are pushed to work even when sick. Many report not seeing their families for days when working overtime, covering shifts left short-staffed by sick colleagues or those who have quit. This is called the era of The Great Resignation, and it definitely applies to nursing.

While President Joe Biden has taken the action of sending military medical staff to six states hardest-hit, including Ohio, more needs to be done. If individuals expect to have nurses care for them when they are hospitalized, then individuals must take responsibility.

Specifically, choosing not to be vaccinated or boosted, not wearing a mask in public and not following the advice of health experts will lead to more COVID hospitalizations, putting nurses and staff at more risk of getting sick or becoming burned out. Conversely, when more of us are fully vaccinated and taking the recommended precautions, the pandemic will slow down and nurses — plus all in health care — will benefit.

It is past time to recognize the impact that our individual choices have on nurses and the health system in the pandemic era.

*Eileen Kilbane Gordon, Shaker Heights*  
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## **Following Reagan's ideals**