

To the Board of Directors:

You have laid upon me an expectation that I simply cannot fulfill. What follows is an explanation of why I will not manage the implementation of the new company psychiatric treatment policy.

I am not prejudiced against Albetanow. I have seen first hand the benefits that the drug Albetanow can provide for its users. My own brother, Thomas, is currently taking Albetanow to fight his chronic depression. It has done wonders for him. Thomas suffered from depression for almost thirty years, but all that changed after he started taking Albetanow. He lost weight, became more ambitious, and now seems truly happy. Albetanow truly turned his life around.

Despite these facts, there are several reasons why this drug wouldn't be good for company-wide use. First of all, and most importantly, Thomas chose to take Albetanow of his own free will. Also, he was prescribed Albetanow by an independent doctor. My fear is that a company-wide policy, such as ours, will create an atmosphere in which our employees are over diagnosed for psychological problems. This will then lead to Albetanow being prescribed to people who may not actually be depressed.

I consider our plan of action and our motives unethical. After much soul-searching, I regretfully have concluded that it is unacceptable to require our employees to take a drug if they do not wish to use it. Despite what our company lawyers may say, my personal opinion is that this policy would violate the employees' basic constitutional rights by forcing them to do something against their free will. Even if there is no court that would convict this company of breaking a specific law, I still believe we would be violating the spirit of the constitution. Furthermore, we would be supporting the dangerous precedent set by the companies that have already implemented this policy.

It is not just the actions you are asking me to take that I have a problem with. I believe our motives are just as bad. I have no doubt you have all seen the studies produced by the companies who have already prescribed Albetanow to their employees. Almost half of their employees were prescribed Albetanow, and consequently the companies' production has skyrocketed. I am all for increased production and a greater competitive edge, but this is not the way to do it. This drug may increase productivity in

the short run, but there is no data to support the idea that it increases productivity over the long run as well. Then, once you factor in the effects on society and the bad reputation the company will receive, this temporary increase of productivity may no longer seem worth it.

Perhaps we could make the psychological screenings mandatory, but give the employees the option of accepting or refusing treatment. This would accomplish several goals at once. This would still boost our productivity some, but would not anger employees who don't think they need medication or treatment. This altered policy would also go over well with employees who would like to accept the medication because they would see the free medication as a perk for working for our company.

The United States and the world as a whole have been working for more than a century on improving workers rights. If you do not alter the planned policy, it could be a significant setback to that work. Although mandatory prescription of Albetanow may not be more physically damaging than a 12-hour workday, or produce more hardship than the lack of a minimum wage, I believe it is more dangerous. The mind is the ultimate bastion of liberty, and we, as a company, would be requiring that employees take a drug that alters their state of mind.

The drug will affect the employees' mind, and it will also affect their bodies. Although side effects of Albetanow are generally mild, most users, and thus most employees, will experience some side effects. There has only been one death due to Albetanow, but that means that there is a possibility (although small) that we could be giving our employees a death sentence. A more likely problem is the one of withdrawal caused by Albetanow. Employees who leave the company will have to stop taking Albetanow (or start buying it themselves) and could experience withdrawal symptoms. This would not be good for internal morale, or for our public image.

So far, I have only discussed short-term problems from the medication. What about long term affects of Albetanow? There have been no clinical studies done of long-term effects of Albetanow. Because of this it would be negligent to continue with the policy. If it turns out that long-term use of Albetanow is harmful, it means we will have

been hurting our most faithful and steadfast employees who have been with us the longest.

Even though I suspect this attempt is futile and that this plea will fall on deaf ears, I still must beg of you to reconsider. It is not too late to see reason and change your course of action.

When an ethical and honest person reaches a place of significant power, such as a high position in a company, or for example, an important elected office, that person obtains three quite different responsibilities. The first is to keep himself in that high position. This is reasonable because these positions of power usually come with a high salary and influence to make up for the amount of work and stress that is required.

There is a second responsibility, to the company. He must insure both short and long-term success for the company, as well as keep the ideals and reputation of the company in sync with the ideals of society.

The third responsibility is to the employees (or constituents). Not every decision has to directly benefit the employees. Sometimes it is necessary to compromise one's beliefs in order to stay in power. This must be done so that he may keep helping and standing up for the employees. He must live to fight another day, so to speak. BUT, occasionally there comes a decision so important, and with such grave consequences, that one has no choice but to stand and fight, no matter what the outcome may be. This decision lies here for me.

I am willing to give up all the future years of helping my employees and all the benefits for myself, for this one moment. For this one moment to stand up for what is Right and Ethical. Even if this costs me my job and reputation, at least I can say I went down with a fight: I did not acquiesce; I used the last tool I had. I used my resignation as a tool of protest because all other options were exhausted.

Therefore, please consider this my official letter of resignation. I realize this is a dramatic step, but it is my hope that it will add force to my plea that you reconsider this

action. I am firmly convinced that it will damage our workers, our company, our society, and you.