

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of support for my son, Iniyan Joseph, as a conscientious objector to military service based on his beliefs, faith and inclination. As a person who has served as a compassion teacher for several years, and as a biology teacher and former cancer scientist, I am more than delighted by Iniyan's proclivity for the pursuit of peace and equity for all life.

I believe that some things about us are innate - respect for all life, choice of non-violence, and standing up for fairness and dignity of others without bias- being among them. I have had the privilege to see these qualities develop and blossom in Iniyan through the years, and never once have I seen him deviate from these fundamentals that he has now openly come to profess. His association with the Society of Friends came from his personal seeking for these above values, and he has found his true community with this association.

There are countless examples I can share as to why Iniyan's desire to profess himself as a conscientious objector carries merit, but the best witnesses are actions. His choice to pursue an academic career that will undoubtedly help humanity, his chosen lifestyle of stoicism and simple living at his young age, his willingness to add his voice to social causes, speak volumes about the person that he is inside and out.

Iniyan is a representation of the kind and compassionate world that we all aspire for. I applaud him for his beliefs and I am honored to support him in his choice to be a conscientious objector should the need arise.

Sincerely

Immanual Joseph, PhD