

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

12/1/2021

Dear Senator Schumer,

On September 9, 2021, President Biden announced plans to impose a sweeping COVID-19 vaccine mandate that, while ostensibly targeting America's employers, will hurt workers. Using the threat of crippling fines, the president's mandate would compel all private employers with at least 100 employees to take action against workers who decline to be vaccinated. This is wrong—morally, legally, and constitutionally. Accordingly, we will oppose all efforts to implement and enforce it with every tool at our disposal, including our votes on spending measures considered by the Senate.

To be sure, we agree that countless Americans have benefitted from the protection offered by the COVID-19 vaccines. Nevertheless, the decision whether to be vaccinated against COVID-19 is a highly personal one that should never be forced upon individuals by the federal government. President Biden has chosen to disregard the personal autonomy of free citizens. Some choose not to be vaccinated because of sincere religious beliefs, others because of unique and potentially serious medical conditions. Others have fully recovered from a previous COVID-19 infection and feel adequately protected by natural immunity, which according to some studies is 27 times stronger than immunity derived from a vaccine. But regardless of their reasons, those who choose not to receive the vaccine deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, especially by their own government. People in any civilized nation should expect nothing less.

President Biden is waging a cruel campaign to punish unvaccinated Americans—depriving them of their ability to provide for their families. This is nothing short of immoral. There are so many humane ways to defeat this virus. Depriving law-abiding citizens of their livelihood must not be included among them.

This punishment is not simply reserved for those who – for their own good reasons – decline the vaccine. President Biden's mandate will punish everyone by crippling our nation. As companies and state and local governments begin to fall in line behind President Biden's proclamation, issuing their own mandates to ensure their compliance, the societal consequences of these mandates are starting to manifest as examples of what is to come.

These early examples demonstrate that coerced unemployment will destroy the machinery that allows our nation to function. Vaccine mandates threaten our law and order, national security, supply chains, travel, and every sector of our economy. Here are a few anecdotes signaling serious problems that have already surfaced:

- Chicago, which has no shortage of violent crime, may lose nearly one-third of its police force to the city's vaccine mandate.
- In New York City, sixteen percent of Emergency Medical Service workers and thirty percent of firefighters remained unvaccinated as of October 29th, which was the city's deadline for these first responders to be vaccinated. The immediate result was the closure of twenty-six fire stations.
- According to recent analysis by Roll Call, based on Pentagon data, as many as 400,000 troops have not received a single dose of the vaccine.
- In addition to the impact on our troops, Raytheon CEO Greg Hayes recently told CNBC that, as a result of the mandates, the company would lose several thousand of the defense contractors that support our military.
- Trucking companies affected by the mandates could lose thirty-seven percent of their workforce, as estimated by the American Trucking Associations. This in the middle of a supply chain crises where the nation already faces a shortage of 80,000 truck drivers.
- According to a Kaiser Family Foundation poll, seven in ten unvaccinated workers (9% of all adults) would quit their job if required to get the vaccine.

If the vaccine mandate is allowed to be fully implemented, the result could be catastrophic. Many Americans who have decided to not comply with the vaccine mandate will not suddenly accept coercion. That is their God given right. Any attempt to blame this impending catastrophe on those choosing not to get vaccinated would be severely misplaced.

President Biden chose to employ unnecessarily coercive methods. President Biden made a bet that he could force people to comply with his edicts by threatening their livelihoods. He was so sure of his winning hand that he wagered the machinery that allows our nation to function. When he loses that bet the blame will be fully his. It is wrong to gamble with people's livelihoods. It is unwise to bet that Americans will cave to petty tyranny.


To be clear, this was not President Biden's bet to make. The president of the United States does not have any statutory or constitutional authority to undertake this breathtakingly vindictive and unprecedented action. The Constitution, which protects the people from the dangers inherent in the excessive accumulation of power in the hands of the few, neither authorizes nor tolerates this kind of abuse.

It does, however, vest in Congress—the branch of the federal government most accountable to the people at the most regular intervals—the exclusive power to fund all federal endeavors. We intend to use that power here to make sure that this mandate never takes effect.

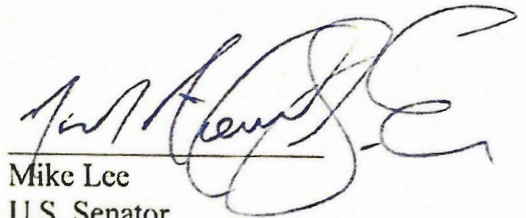
To that end, please be advised (many weeks in advance of the current spending period, which ends on December 3, 2021) that we will not support—and will use all means at our disposal to oppose—legislation that funds or in any way enables the enforcement of President Biden's employer vaccine mandate. Nor will we vote for or support cloture on any continuing resolution in the absence of language protecting Americans from this action.

The American people have gone through enough and should not be subjected to this type of coercion. The people stand with us on this issue because we stand with them. We invite and implore you to join us in our efforts to protect them.

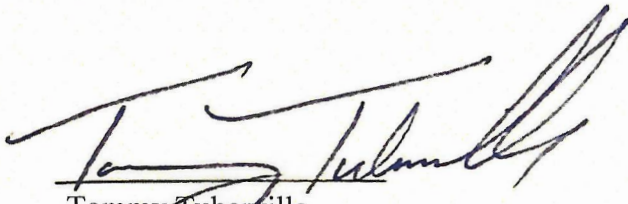
Sincerely,



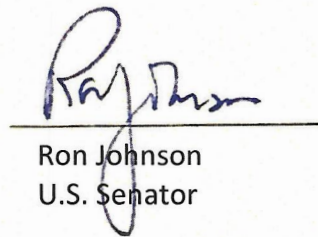
Roger Marshall, M.D.
U.S. Senator



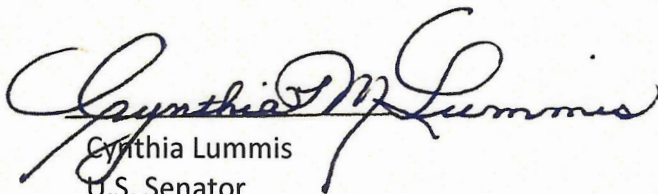
Mike Lee
U.S. Senator



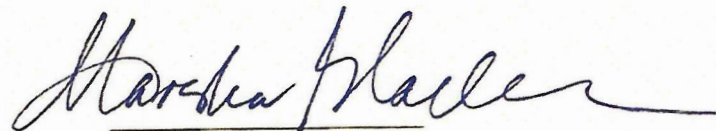
Tommy Tuberville
U.S. Senator



Ron Johnson
U.S. Senator



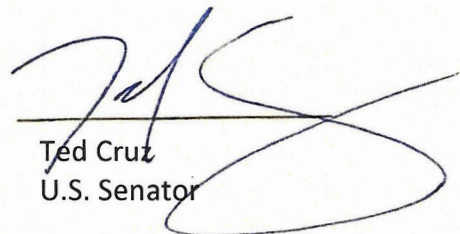
Cynthia Lummis
U.S. Senator



Marsha Blackburn
U.S. Senator



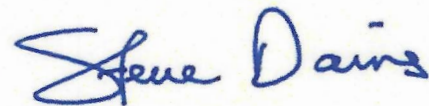
Rick Scott
U.S. Senator



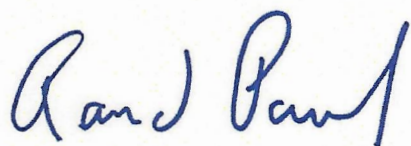
Ted Cruz
U.S. Senator



Jim Inhofe
U.S. Senator



Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



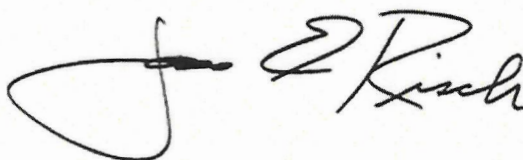
Rand Paul
U.S. Senator



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



James Lankford
U.S. Senator



James Risch
U.S. Senator



Mike Braun
U.S. Senator
