



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 29, 2021

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write to you today to express serious concerns with your recent Executive Orders (EO) related to the COVID-19 vaccine mandates. These EOs federally mandate vaccinations for a variety of employees, whether their place of work has more than 100 employees, they work as federal contractors, or are federal employees. The action of federally mandating the COVID-19 vaccinations is concerning, not because of the science behind the COVID-19 vaccines, or even the vaccines themselves, but because of the potentially detrimental consequences to the United States economy, middle-class workers, and local communities across the U.S.

I was sworn into this Congress late because of a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. Although I was lucky to not face serious complications, it is a miserable illness. I know this from personal experience, which is why I decided to get vaccinated after my physician cleared me to do so. I believe in vaccines, I believe in science, and I believe that the COVID-19 vaccine significantly reduces chances of hospitalization for COVID-positive patients. I have and will continue to advocate for everyone to consult with their physician about receiving the vaccine. Ultimately, this is a personal health care decision, not something the federal government should force people to do.

We are all too aware that the U.S. economy is experiencing harmful inflation while continuing to try to recover from the economic fallout from the pandemic. Your vaccine mandates will be financially and administratively burdensome for the companies and organizations that are subject to the EOs. This will also be incredibly challenging, costly, and inconvenient for employees who will be required to receive weekly COVID-19 tests, particularly in low-income and rural areas, like much of my district. Many of these individuals already have difficulty accessing transportation to get to and from work and do not all have the ability to take time off without losing pay.

I believe the existing labor shortages will only be exacerbated with the implementation of the EOs as well. At a time when industries all across the U.S. are desperately looking to hire

additional employees, we cannot afford to be deterring people from pursuing new jobs and looking for work. Also, we should not be punishing those who are currently working, especially since many Americans subject to the mandate are some of our most essential and critical workers we rely on, including nurses and other health care professionals, truck drivers, teachers, law enforcement officers, first responders, and many more.

The American people need help during these difficult times, not restricting mandates. I urge you to consider my concerns as the U.S. continues to recover and heal from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Valadao', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David G. Valadao
Member of Congress