

VACCINE MANDATES: BAD FOR MISSISSIPPI

- Law-abiding healthy Mississippians continue lose their jobs or be segregated and discriminated against for not taking a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Travel restrictions are ongoing, as well as employment discrimination, and right of access to public venues over masking and testing. This problem was started over vaccination.
- Recent surveys of the healthcare field report that 20-60% say they would not take a COVID-19 vaccine and want choices.
- Continued mandates could have devastating impacts on the MS economy as critical employees and customers who don't want to take a vaccine are turned away from tourism, travel, healthcare and long-term care, emergency services, sport events, insurance, childcare, education, and employment.
- As of 1/18/2022, there have already been 1.9 million COVID-19 vaccine adverse events and 22,000 COVID-19 vaccine deaths reported to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System. When there is risk, there must be informed voluntary consent and the right to refuse a vaccine without penalty.
- Proactive action by the state to prohibit employer mandates also provides a degree of liability protection to all businesses. If businesses cannot legally mandate a vaccine, mandates are not a legal option to implement, employers can't be sued for not mandating the vaccine. Conversely now, employees are suing businesses.
- Once COVID-19 vaccines are fully licensed, businesses afraid of being sued over not mandating the vaccine will enact condition of employment mandates unless protections are put in place.
- Medical trade associations like the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Medical Association have been actively lobbying to force vaccination by removing all vaccine exemptions, nationwide. Many Mississippi doctors already refuse care for those families who don't agree with every vaccine.
- Vaccine passports in other areas of the country are threatening right of access to public venues. New York has already announced their vaccine passport, called the "Excelsior Pass" in order to gain entry into events and businesses.
- The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission affirms the legal right of an employer to exclude the employee from the workplace even if an employee cannot get vaccinated for COVID-19 because of a disability or sincerely held religious belief and

there is no reasonable accommodation possible. The state will have to step in and protect Mississippi employees' right to delay or refuse vaccines.

- Those injured by COVID-19 vaccines have no recourse, as manufacturers and providers are shielded from liability through the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act, or PREP Act. This federal law establishes that the only option for compensation for COVID-19 vaccine victims is the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program (CICP). Only 8% of all petitioners since 2010 have been awarded compensation through the CICP. No legal or medical expert fees are covered, no pain and suffering are awarded, lost wages are capped at \$50,000, and there is no judicial appeal.
- UMMC's pre-pandemic average number of nurse opening was about 70. Today, that number is 360 due to nurses leaving the profession. UMMC nurses complain of vaccine mandates and hostile work environment.
- Reasonable precautions should be taken, but it crosses the line when healthy law-abiding citizens are excluded from day-to-day life for declining the COVID-19 vaccine.