

EATON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Resolution To Condemn Federal Vaccine & Testing Mandates****December 15, 2021**

Submitted by Commissioners Reynnet, Droscha, and Mulder on
behalf of the Eaton County Republican Women Alliance

Introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee

Commissioner Mott moved the approval of the following resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Reynnet.

A resolution to condemn President Joe Biden's decision to impose vaccine requirements on private and public employers and healthcare facilities receiving funds from The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and urge the Governor and Attorney General of Michigan to pursue all available avenues to challenge these unlawful mandates.

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2021, President Biden announced his administration's plan to impose strict COVID-19 vaccine requirements on private businesses. Effective January 4, 2022, employers with over 100 employees will be required to ensure employees are vaccinated or impose burdensome weekly testing regimens; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2021, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) also issued a federal vaccine mandate for staff within all Medicare and Medicaid-certified facilities including nursing homes, hospitals, dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical settings, and home health agencies, among others, as a condition for participating in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, as well as, federal contractors, and the majority of federal workers; and

WHEREAS, these requirements are capricious and arbitrary, infringing on Americans' civil liberties. Health care decisions, including whether or not to get vaccinated, are deeply personal and should not be subject to governmental edicts that cannot account for unique, individual medical needs; and

WHEREAS, the vaccine requirement will impact two-thirds of the nation's private sector workforce. Imposing sanctions, such as lost employment, on the most economically vulnerable is unnecessarily cruel; and

WHEREAS, federal overreach will exacerbate supply chain shortages; interrupt manufacturing production; risk destabilizing our critical water, sewer, and energy infrastructure; put additional life-threatening pressure on our health care industry; cause interruption in our education system; and cause additional labor shortages across all industries; and

WHEREAS, employers are already experiencing significant resource and workforce shortages that will only be made worse by adding additional requirements that limit the number of workers available; and

WHEREAS, to date, at least 27 states have filed legal challenges or expressly stated an intention to push back against this type of federal government overreach. Resistance to the federal mandate by state leaders has been bipartisan, as three states with Democrat governors – Kansas, Kentucky, and Louisiana – have joined the lawsuits. However, Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel have thus far acquiesced to President Biden's intrusion upon our state's sovereignty and policymaking process; and

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2021, the administrator of the Eaton County Healing and Recovery center, Martha Richard, stated during her Semi-Annual Update that the vaccine mandate would further exacerbate staffing shortage; and

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit placed a hold on President Biden's vaccine mandate; and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, further affirmed, it's hold on the vaccine mandate; and

WHEREAS, on November 29, 2021, The US District Court of Missouri ruled against implementation and enforcement of CMS vaccine mandates; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2021, a federal judge issued a preliminary injunction to halt implementation of the President's mandate for health care workers, which had been set to begin this week; and

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2021, the President clearly articulated that his policy goals for the business and medical communities has not changed or evolved in light of the aforementioned judicial action. While announcing his Winter Covid 19 plan, President Biden stated he believes that "all Americans can rally around" this plan and stated that the plan, including vaccine mandates, "should get bipartisan support.", and left ALL of the aforementioned vaccine mandates in place, with implementation pending judicial review.

NOW HERE BY, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Eaton County Board of Commissioners, That we, on behalf of the citizens of Eaton County, condemn President Biden's decision to impose vaccine requirements on both public and private employers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we call upon Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel to join those leaders who have filed suit to protect the interests of their states and their citizens and pursue all available avenues to challenge President Biden's unlawful mandate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Michigan Attorney General, and the commissioners of the other Michigan counties.

AYES: Commissioners Barnes, Mulder, Droscha, Reynnet, Ridge, Lautzenheiser, Mott, Rogers and Whittum.

NAYS: Commissioner Augustine, Haskell, Pearl-Wright, Whitacre, Mudry, and Brehler. Carried.