



THE VOICE *of* BUSINESS

September 23, 2021

The Honorable Troy Nehls
1104 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Al Green
2347 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of the Pearland US Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Pearland Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 600 business members, I would like to acknowledge you for your representation and service to the Pearland community during these challenging times.

I am reaching out today to voice our Chamber members' concerns for the vaccine mandates announced by President Biden on September 9, 2021.

As the Voice of Business, the Pearland Chamber has a long history of advocating for business leaders. Those leaders know what is in the best interest of their company's operations. We believe business has the right to determine employee policies and qualifications and therefore should be entrusted to establish practices necessary to make the workplace safe.

After speaking with several of the potentially impacted business leaders in our community, the consensus is clearly one of confusion on this mandate. These business leaders are seeking clarification on the ruling related to tracking and testing responsibilities. On behalf of our membership, the Chamber is seeking to voice direct concerns regarding the cost of implementation and ongoing testing. The Chamber is also expressing concern for collateral business disruption and its potential impact on job growth. These concerns are in addition to the potential fines for non-compliance with the mandates.

Business owners, with information, not a directive, provided by local, state, or federal government, should decide what vaccination and testing mandates are implemented.

We recognize the importance of mitigating this COVID-19 public health emergency and also desire a return to an environment where Texans can safely work, worship, educate, and gather. That said, employers should not be put in the position as enforcer of this onerous task. Instead, business leaders should be able to choose what COVID-19 workplace response protocols to implement for the health and safety of their employees.

We encourage you to reflect on these concerns for the President's mandates and protect employers' rights to determine their own workplace policies for employees.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Johnson
President and CEO

Ann Strouhal
Board Chair

cc: State Senator Larry Taylor; State Senator Boris Miles; State Representative Ed Thompson;
State Representative Dennis Paul; State Representative Alma Allen;
State Representative Cody Vasut; State Representative Greg Bonnen;
State Representative Ron Reynolds; Board of Directors, Pearland Chamber of Commerce.

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