

**Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky,  
Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota,  
Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and  
Wyoming**

September 16, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

We, the Attorneys General of 24 states, write in opposition to your attempt to mandate the vaccination of private citizens. On September 9, you announced that you would be ordering the Department of Labor to issue an emergency temporary standard, under the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act, which would mandate that private sector employers require most of their employees to either get a COVID-19 shot, submit to weekly testing, or be fired.

Your plan is disastrous and counterproductive. From a policy perspective, this edict is unlikely to win hearts and minds—it will simply drive further skepticism. And at least some Americans will simply leave the job market instead of complying. This will further strain an already-too-tight labor market, burdening companies and (therefore) threatening the jobs of even those who *have* received a vaccine. Worse still, many of those who decide to leave their jobs rather than follow your directive will be essential healthcare workers. This is no idle speculation. A New York hospital recently announced its plans to stop delivering babies after several staff members resigned in the face of New York's mandate.<sup>1</sup> And recent polling suggests those frontline healthcare workers are not outliers.<sup>2</sup> Thus, Mr. President, your vaccination mandate represents not only a threat to individual liberty, but a public health disaster that will displace vulnerable workers and exacerbate a nationwide hospital staffing crisis, with severe consequences for all Americans.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John Yoon, *A small upstate New York hospital will stop delivering babies after 6 workers quit rather than be vaccinated*, New York Times, Sept. 13, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/13/nyregion/upstate-ny-hospital-stop-delivering-babies.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Washington Post-ABC News Poll, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 2021, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/aug-29-sept-1-2021-washington-post-abc-news-poll/899d77db-ef60-46c9-b028-8f3298df8659/?itid=lk\\_inline\\_manual\\_42](https://www.washingtonpost.com/context/aug-29-sept-1-2021-washington-post-abc-news-poll/899d77db-ef60-46c9-b028-8f3298df8659/?itid=lk_inline_manual_42) (reporting that of unvaccinated workers not currently required to be vaccinated, if faced with a vaccine mandate, only 16% would get vaccinated, 35% would ask for an exemption, and 42% would quit).

<sup>3</sup> Andrew Jacobs, *'Nursing Is in Crisis': Staff Shortages Put Patients at Risk*, New York Times, Aug. 21, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/21/health/covid-nursing-shortage-delta.html>.