

## An Open Letter to Governor Greg Abbott:

The Republican Party of Texas recognizes and applauds your efforts to protect Texans' rights to personal autonomy and medical freedom by issuing Executive Orders GA-35, GA-38, and GA-39.

We now ask you to acknowledge that, despite your efforts, Texans' personal liberties and rights continue to be violated by employers across our great state. This has become a most desperate hour for individual Texans who are being told they must accept administration of a COVID-19 vaccine or lose their jobs. Many are not being given the option to opt out for any reason. They are being shamed, bullied, and discriminated against. They are being silenced, ignored, and marginalized. These atrocities prompted the Texas State Republican Executive Committee to pass a <u>Resolution Defending Medical Freedom and Personal Responsibility</u>.

No employer, public or private, should be allowed to violate the legal rights of any individual employee or patron for any reason. We are asking you to take up the cause of these Texans and defend the personal rights and freedoms afforded every individual and protected by our United States Constitution, the Texas Constitution, and Common Law by taking *two immediate steps*:

First, we implore you to add a comprehensive ban on vaccine mandates to the call of the Third Special Session of the 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature. Time is running out to protect vulnerable Texans who are having to choose *right now* between losing their livelihoods or accepting forced administration of a COVID-19 vaccine. A number of our conservative legislators have already filed bills to protect these Texans and your fast action in adding this issue to the call is needed to ensure that the rights of millions of working Texans are legislatively protected and not further violated.

Second, we ask that you expand your Executive Order, which already protects *consumers* from vaccine mandates and passports imposed by all public and private entities who receive public funds, to protect *ALL* individuals, including employees of those entities. This step will provide an important and desperately needed shield of protection for the individual freedoms of embattled Texans. The rights of organizations should *never* be allowed to trample the rights of individuals.

We extend to you our deepest gratitude for joining us in the defense of individual freedom and liberty. We look forward to your swift and decisive action in these matters on behalf of the Citizens of Texas!

For Texas and Liberty,

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Matt Rinaldi, Chairman, Republican Party of Texas

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