LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-sixth Legislature First Regular Session - 2021

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 105

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN, TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2021, President Joe Biden issued two executive orders mandating COVID-19 vaccines for federal workers and contractors and further unveiled new vaccine or testing requirements for health care providers and employers with 100 or more employees; and

WHEREAS, such an effort to compel Americans to submit to vaccination by using the force of federal government is an overreach of the power the several states entrusted to that central government under the principles of American federalism; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the moral and constitutional concerns inherent in such a sweeping, invasive mandate, the Biden Administration's plan would place an onerous burden on employers, particularly health care providers, by forcing these employers to choose between complying with federal orders or maintaining their workforce. Many health care employees and other segments of the workforce have found it necessary to stage protests or otherwise communicate their disapproval of a vaccine mandate. When viewed in the present context of nationwide labor shortages and political divisiveness, the plan is remarkably ill-timed; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that inoculation is a personal medical choice, and an attack on such choice is to chisel away at the freedom and liberty upon which this nation was founded. Vaccination should not be required as a condition of employment, public or private, and religious exemptions should always be honored; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds it necessary and proper to voice its opposition to the Biden Administration's COVID-19 vaccine mandate and to state its position that President Biden's plan to fine large employers that do not require their employees to be vaccinated or submit to weekly COVID-19 testing is an unconstitutional overreach of executive authority as set forth in Article II of the United States Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature strongly opposes the Biden Administration's vaccine mandate for federal workers and contractors as well as the proposed requirements for large employers and health care employers to require vaccination and testing as erosions of the freedom and liberty of the people of this state and nation.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to President Joe Biden, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.