

December 16, 2021

Chairman Peterson, Vice Chair Cirino, and Ranking Senator Craig,

We are in a unique and unprecedented time with the COVID-19 pandemic. We are fortunate that scientific research has offered us a tool to fight back with a vaccination that decreases infections and morbidity/mortality. Ideally all Ohioans would choose to get vaccinated because it is the right thing to do. Unfortunately, that has not played out as many are putting political and ideological beliefs ahead of the welfare of our fellow Americans.

Vaccine mandates have proven to be an effective way to improve vaccination rates in our state, ultimately saving lives - both those who are vaccinated and those who are immunocompromised or have medical indications preventing their vaccinations. It is also our best chance to decrease mutations and prevent future worse versions of this virus.

Sometimes we have to do what is right for our society and our fellow Ohioans, and this is one of those times. I urge you not to pass this bill which will render vaccine mandates useless in our fight against COVID-19.

Thank you,

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