



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

August 2, 2021

The Honorable Michael L. Parson
Governor, State of Missouri
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Governor Parson,

Over the past several weeks several Missouri employers have signaled their intention to require employees and staff to have received a COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of employment. In other words – get the shot or lose your job.

This is concerning to a wide cross-section of Missourians. Whether elderly or young, urban or rural, religious or secular, we are a state that greatly values its freedom and individual liberty. Mandating our citizens to inject themselves with an experimental drug flies in the face of these principles and puts Missourians in the position of choosing between their livelihoods and their right to control their own lives.

That leads to another concern – the vaccine is still an experimental drug lacking full Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approval. All three of the major vaccines; Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, and Moderna are currently under emergency authorization from the FDA, but lack full approval. Is it prudent - much less legal or advisable - to force employees to take a drug, against their will, when the FDA is still studying its efficacy?

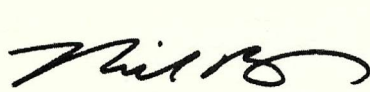
The legal arguments of forced vaccination can't be ignored either. The Civil Rights Act bans discrimination based on religion, race, and gender and the American Disabilities Act bars discrimination because of a disability. These federal laws don't just ban discrimination but require employers to provide reasonable accommodations to those not vaccinated because of religious belief or disability. Are Missouri employers committed to protecting the rights of their employees or is the expediency of experimental vaccinations more important than the rights and protections of working Missourians?

With these unresolved questions and many more, Missourians are looking to their elected leaders to protect their rights and freedom. If your employer can force you to take an experimental drug, what can't they force you to do? We need to step up and ensure Missouri workers can decide whether the vaccine is right for them. We are the Show-Me State and I am confident that when Missourians are shown the vaccine is safe, effective, and won't have long-term consequences for their themselves or their families, they will make the right decision on whether to get it or not. It's not our job to force it nor is it the job of businesses and employers to force the vaccine. Our job is to safeguard the rights and liberties of the people we represent.

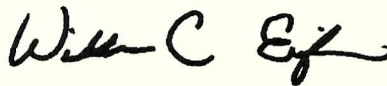
With this as our duty, I respectfully request you call an extraordinary session at your earliest convenience so the General Assembly can take any and all appropriate steps to protect Missouri workers from vaccine mandates, whether they be from the public or private sector.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and for your service to the people of Missouri.

Sincerely,



Rick Brattin
Senator, 31st District



Bill Eigel
Senator, 23rd District



Denny Hoskins
Senator, 21st District



Mike Moon
Senator, 29th District



Bob Onder
Senator, 2nd District



Holly Rehder
Senator, 27th District