



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

October 29, 2021

The Honorable Wilton Simpson  
President, The Florida Senate  
Room 409, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

The Honorable Chris Sprowls  
Speaker, The Florida House of Representatives  
Room 420, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear President Simpson and Speaker Sprowls:

Please find enclosed the Proclamation convening the Florida Legislature in a Special Session commencing at 12:00 p.m., Monday, November 15, 2021, and extending no later than 12:00 p.m., Friday, November 19, 2021. The Legislature of the State of Florida is convened in Special Session for the sole and exclusive purpose of considering legislation to (1) protect workers against COVID-19 vaccine mandates and address employer policies that force COVID-19 vaccination; and (2) clarify that Florida law vests student masking decisions in the hands of parents and strengthen enforcement of the protections in the Parents' Bill of Rights, Chapter 1014, Florida Statutes, and other related statutes as necessary to ensure Florida's school districts adhere to the requirements of state law.

Specifically, the Legislature should consider legislation to:

- a. Protect current and prospective employees against unfair discrimination on the basis of COVID-19 vaccination status and ensure robust enforcement for this protection;
- b. Ensure that educational institutions and government entities are prohibited from unfairly discriminating against current and prospective employees, students, and residents on the basis of COVID-19 vaccination status;
- c. Ensure that employees improperly denied employment on the basis of COVID-19 vaccination status can be eligible for reemployment benefits and, if needed, ensure that employees injured by a COVID-19 vaccination taken pursuant to a company policy are covered by workers' compensation;

- d. Appropriate a sufficient amount of funds to investigate complaints regarding COVID-19 vaccination mandates and to take legal action against such mandates, including mandates imposed by the Federal Government;
- e. Clarify that the Parents' Bill of Rights, Chapter 1014, Florida Statutes, vests the decision on masking with parents, not government entities, and that schools must comply with Department of Health rules that govern student health, including rules that ensure healthy students can remain in school;
- f. Limit mandates by school districts on students or employees regarding COVID-19 and related mitigation measures;
- g. Provide adequate enforcement mechanisms to ensure that Florida law is followed and the rights of parents are honored;
- h. Direct the State to evaluate whether it should assert jurisdiction over occupational safety and health issues for government and private employees;
- i. Repeal the authority for the State Health Officer to order forced injections or vaccinations under Section 381.00315, Florida Statutes, originally enacted in 2002; and
- j. Create as necessary public records exemptions related to complaints and investigations described herein.

Sincerely



Ron DeSantis  
Governor

Enclosure