



Office of Ellis County Judge Todd Little
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Corey Rogan - Public Information Specialist

“Ellis County Commissioners’ Court Opposes Federal Vaccine Mandate”

Ellis County, TX – On Tuesday, the Ellis County Commissioners’ Court unanimously adopted a resolution opposing the Biden Administration’s recently proposed executive order, which would enforce a national vaccine mandate through the regulatory instruments of the Department of Labor.

On September 9th, President Biden gave a speech stating that his “patience is wearing thin” with Americans who choose not to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The President outlined a plan to enforce higher rates of vaccination among Americans: he will direct the Department of Labor to fine all businesses in the United States with at least 100 employees \$14,000 for every single employee who fails to provide proof of vaccination or consent to cost-prohibitive weekly virus-testing. The proposed executive order would subject an estimated 100 million Americans to a *de-facto* national vaccine mandate, and it met immediate backlash from conservatives and constitutional scholars across the nation.

In Ellis County’s official resolution, the commissioners “oppose any vaccine mandates proposed by any government or government department” and “oppose any use of county resources to enforce government mandates regarding any COVID-19 vaccination or treatment.” The commissioners further “demand that the Federal Government withdraw any such proposals” and “request the State of Texas to employ all necessary resources to protect our fellow citizens from federal attempts to harass, bully, or threaten the employment of any Texan who does not wish to undergo a certain medical treatment.”

The U.S. Department of Labor and the Occupational Safety & Health Administration, which the Biden Administration has directed to enforce its mandate, often rely on state government entities to enforce their regulations at a local level. When state or local governments oppose these rules, they become unenforceable, and the federal programs fall apart. According to Ellis County’s resolution, “under our constitutional system, states and local governments reserve the right to shield their citizens from federal policies that constitute a questionable violation of their natural and constitutional rights.”

“The Biden Administration’s vaccine mandate is both unconstitutional and un-American,” said County Judge Todd Little. “The choice of whether to undergo a medical treatment is strictly between an individual and his or her doctor. The Federal Government has no constitutional authority to deprive Americans of the right to earn a living just because they do not want a vaccine or medical treatment. This mandate could become a ‘slippery slope’ to all Americans and any of their constitutional rights.”

Between February 3rd and June 4th, Ellis County operated a Vaccine Hub at the Waxahachie Senior Center in which any Texas resident could receive the Pfizer vaccine for free. Between the Hub and other local efforts, approximately 80,000 Ellis County residents received a vaccine voluntarily. This vaccination effort, according to the resolution, should not be construed as to suggest that Ellis County or the State of Texas have any plans in place to revoke the “civilized precondition of consent and force medical treatments on individuals under the threat of losing their livelihood.”

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