



CHRISTINE DRAZAN
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Honorable Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street, NE
Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301

Governor Brown,

The newest guidance from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is misguided and places additional government mandates and undue responsibilities on businesses and their employees by moving to a vaccine passport system.

To comply with OHA guidance, businesses will need to train employees to verify personal health records for different vaccines and check the dates those vaccines were administered. Businesses will incur fines from Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) if their employees get it wrong. Vaccine cards are designed as a personal health record, not a credential.

Requiring Oregonians to verify their vaccine status also creates additional liability concerns for the state and businesses, as business owners are turned into state actors. Meanwhile, businesses in Oregon still lack common-sense liability protections related to ongoing COVID-19 mandates. The only other option for businesses is to require all customers wear masks regardless of their vaccination status, which is contrary to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance.

Both the White House and the CDC have stated that the federal government will never support a vaccine verification system, nor have they mandated that businesses do so. Rather than follow the recommendations of President Biden and the CDC, Oregon is mandating that businesses across the state choose between maintaining an unnecessary mask mandate or implementing a flawed vaccine passport system.

Oregon should not be at odds with the CDC and White House's recommendations.

This will create conflict between employees and customers, and between businesses and the communities they serve. Furthermore, front-line workers will take the brunt of confrontations. We should not be placing further burdens on workers.

Vaccines are prevalent and accessible. We should be easing restrictions. The choice should be returned to people and businesses so they can follow the latest guidance from the CDC without unwarranted government mandates.

It's time to return to normal.

Sincerely,

Christine Drazan
House Republican Leader
State Representative
House District 39

Enclosure (1)

cc: Patrick Allen, Oregon Health Authority