



February 8, 2022

Senator Mike Shower  
Chairman, Senate State Affairs Committee  
State Capitol – Room 429  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

**Re: Support SB 156**

Dear Senator Shower:

Alaska Family Action urges you to support Senate Bill 156: “An Act relating to COVID-19 immunization rights; and relating to objection to the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine.”

We support SB 156 because it would eliminate harmful COVID-19 vaccine mandates and so-called “immunity passports,” regardless of whether these dictates emanate from governmental agencies or from private businesses.

One of the most fundamental principles of medical ethics is that patients must be allowed **free and informed consent** before accepting a medical intervention. We agree with a statement from the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) that points out how mandates undermine the principle of free and informed consent:

“The best ethical decision-making occurs when individuals have sufficient information for discernment and are able to reflect without undue external pressures placed on them. Mandates, by their very nature, exert pressure that can be severe if employment or the ability to further one’s education are threatened.”

<https://www.ncbcenter.org/ncbc-news/vaccinemandatestatement>

We also agree with the American College of Pediatricians which has stated,

“It is fundamental that the right of individual conscience be preserved. Coerced vaccination would irreparably harm Constitutional rights and the patient-physician relationship.”

<https://acpeds.org/press/joint-statement-on-vaccines-and-conscience-protection>

Many Alaskans have valid reasons for declining vaccination, including personal health conditions, pre-existing immunity from a prior COVID infection, and conscientious objection to the unethical methods used to develop certain COVID vaccines.

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We have heard the concern expressed that SB 156 will interfere with the ability of private businesses to manage their affairs. However, we have numerous laws on the books already that prevent private sector employers from violating the human rights and dignity of their workers.

For example, Alaska has laws restricting the use of child labor, and prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace. We even have certain areas of commerce that are prohibited completely, e.g., prostitution and illicit drugs. We have these rules because the common good requires it. As a society, we've discerned that some things are more sacred than "making a buck."

Alaska Family Action believes that no Alaskan should be fired from their job, kicked out of school, or denied access to public places for simply declining to accept a medical intervention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Minnery", written over a light purple rectangular background.

Jim Minnery, President  
Alaska Family Action