



October 18, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 4002
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Governor Inslee:

Today marks the day many hard-working employees will lose their job because they made the personal health-care decision to not get vaccinated.

Your mandate will undoubtedly leave dedicated employees without an income to support their families and could cause unnecessary staffing challenges for hospitals, long-term care facilities, nursing homes, schools, first responders, correction facilities, and state agencies. These staffing shortages will negatively impact the lives of all Washingtonians.

The effect of this mandate will be far-reaching. We already have a healthcare staffing shortage that will surely be exacerbated by this mandate. It stands to reason that those in need will needlessly suffer if fewer first responders are available. Not to mention that fewer WSDOT employees will negatively impact road safety.

Members of the House Republican Caucus (HRC) have many questions on behalf of our constituents. Senator Braun and I have sent you letters requesting information, including one dated August 20 and another dated August 25. To date, we have not received a response from your office.

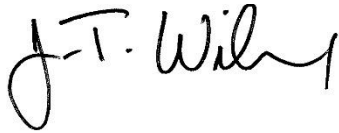
I am formally requesting a briefing for HRC members by your staff, to answer our questions on behalf of the countless number of constituents who have contacted us. Below is a sampling of the questions for which we and our constituents are seeking answers.

- How many employees lost their jobs because of the vaccine mandate and what is the impact for Washingtonians? (We would like to see a breakdown by agency and by region.)
- How will you address the impact on the delivery of critical services caused by the staffing shortage created by the vaccine mandate?
- How many exemption requests were granted to employees and how many were rejected?
- Of the exemptions that were granted, how many employees received corresponding accommodations?
- Were workers prevented from doing their job today if they showed up to work without verifying their vaccination status? If so, how many workers were locked out?

- Were employees who have been working remotely allowed to access their work accounts if they didn't verify their vaccination status? If not, how many workers were denied the ability to continue working remotely?

Chief of Staff, Lisa Fenton, will contact Executive Director of Legislative Affairs, Drew Shirk, to schedule a briefing for our members by the appropriate staff from your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.T. Wilcox". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J" and a stylized "T".

State Representative J.T. Wilcox
Republican Leader
2nd District