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"No entity in Texas can compel receipt of a Covid-19 vaccination by any individual"

by <u>Steve Watson</u>, <u>Summit News</u> October 12, 2021

In direct defiance of the Biden administration, Texas Governor Greg Abbott has banned any entity from trying to impose a vaccine mandate in the state.

Abbot issued a statement urging that "The Covid vaccine should always remain voluntary and never forced."

The governor's office announced that "no entity in Texas can compel receipt of a Covid-19 vaccination by any individual, including an employee or consumer, who objects to such vaccination for any reason of personal conscience, based on a religious belief, or for medical reasons, including prior recovery from Covid-19."

"I hereby suspend all relevant statutes to the extent necessary to enforce this prohibition," Abbot added.

"In another instance of federal overreach, the Biden Administration is now bullying many private entities into imposing COVID-19 vaccine mandates, causing workforce disruptions that threaten Texas' continued recovery from the COVID-19 disaster," Abbott's statement also noted.

I issued an Executive Order prohibiting vaccine mandates by ANY entity in Texas.

I also added the issue to the Special Session agenda.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective, & our best defense against the virus, but should always remain voluntary & never forced. pic.twitter.com/8hHHLyebCk

— Greg Abbott (@GregAbbott TX) <u>October 11, 2021</u>

Back in September, Biden announced that any company with over 100 employees would be subject to a vaccine mandate.

Abbot's actions are in stark contrast to California, where governor Gavin Newsom has imposed mandates for everyone, <u>including children</u>, despite his own daughter <u>not being vaccinated</u>.

Governor Abbot's executive order is also interesting in the context of Southwest Airlines, which continues to deny that thousands of flight cancellations are because pilots and staff staged a coordinated 'sickout' to protest against the vaccine mandates.

Hundreds more flights were cancelled yesterday.

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