



KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Tom Spangler
Sheriff

October 25, 2021

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

I am writing with regard to your impending executive order that mandates all businesses with 100 or more employees to require the COVID-19 vaccine as a condition of employment or conduct weekly COVID-19 tests. As the Sheriff of Knox County, I will not comply with this unconstitutional order. Additionally, it puts the lives of Knox County citizens at risk.

We are in a time in our Country where men and women are leaving the profession of law enforcement in record numbers. If I were to enforce this mandate; it is likely we could lose a large majority of our work force, putting the lives of our citizens in immediate danger. Our deputies, corrections officers, and support staff are overworked and underpaid. Therefore, retention remains challenging. This mandate would also make the Knox County Sheriff's Office less attractive for those seeking a career in law enforcement.

I, too, am an elected official. The voters elected me, and you, Mr. President to look out for their best interest and to uphold the United States Constitution. I took an oath to protect, serve, and enforce the laws which are created by our legislative body. I fulfill this oath daily with honor and integrity, as do the men and women of the Knox County Sheriff's Office. We will not become the mandate police.

As a veteran of the United States Air Force, as was my father, I am deeply concerned about the direction our country is headed. I am deeply troubled by your lack of regard for the United States Constitution and the freedom of the citizens of Knox County.

We are still the land of the FREE because of the BRAVE. It is my hope that more community leaders will stand against this unconstitutional mandate. I am hopeful they see it for what it is-- government overreach.

Sincerely,


Tom Spangler
SHERIFF