

For Immediate Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Alliance Against Healthcare Mandates Files Injunction to Overturn Unlawful Healthcare COVID Vaccine Mandate

AUGUSTA, ME- The Alliance Against Healthcare Mandates filed an injunction in Kennebec County Superior Court today to stop implementation of the Mills Administration's new healthcare COVID vaccine mandate. An injunction would provide much needed relief for Maine health, disability, and emergency care systems, expected to lose over 1,000 employees on October 1st as a result of the mandate. The filing protects our healthcare facilities from dangerous staffing shortages due to the loss of thousands of employees in an already burdened system, and protects potentially thousands of Mainers from being forced into unemployment.

"Commissioner Lambrew and Maine CDC – unelected bureaucrats – did not have the authority to pass this mandate with a flick of their pens. By law, emergency rule-making powers are extremely limited in scope, and require formal public input when likely to create a significant burden on stakeholders in our communities. This mandate imposes significant burdens on local government, Maine's healthcare infrastructure, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders in our communities. As such, it can only be promulgated in a process that ensures heightened legislative review and public input," said Attorney Ron Jenkins who filed the suit on behalf of the Alliance. "Under the 14th Amendment of our Constitution, injection with experimental vaccines must be voluntary, and based on informed consent, not coerced with threats of firing and the deep insecurity that unemployment brings. We are optimistic that the superior court will recognize the unlawfulness of this action and quickly grant the injunction we have requested to protect our already strained healthcare system, our healthcare heroes, and the Maine people."

Senator Lisa Keim (R-Oxford), member of the legislative Liberty Caucus, said "We took a huge step today in supporting the thousands of impacted workers statewide who are protesting the Mills Administration's dictatorial mandate with this injunction. We are confident that it will be granted, ensuring that no Mainer is discriminated against based on their personal medical status. This mandate starts with our healthcare heroes, but make no mistake, it will be extended to other Mainers if we don't put a stop to it now."

Emily Nixon, RN and spokesperson for Coalition for Healthcare Workers Against Medical Mandates, has talked to thousands of healthcare workers across the state since the news of the new mandate hit. "Healthcare workers, including those already fully vaccinated, oppose this mandate because no Mainer should have medical decisions forced on them to keep their jobs. Healthcare employees – doctors, nurses, admin, first responders – deserve the same right to bodily autonomy and non-coerced medical decision-making as do their patients. These very employees who have been celebrated for risking their lives, working under extremely difficult conditions to take care of Mainers throughout the pandemic, are now being fired for their personal medical choices. This injunction is a huge step in the right direction and we won't stop until this mandate is overturned."

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Alliance Against Healthcare Mandates is a coalition of Maine organizations and legislators representing Maine healthcare workers. The Alliance includes the newly formed Coalition for Healthcare Workers Against Medical Mandates, Mainers for Health and Parental Rights, Health Choice Maine, Maine Stands Up and the legislative Liberty Caucus. They are advocating for the overturning of Governor Mills' unlawful healthcare COVID vaccine mandate.