

September 11, 2021

Dear Congressman Latta,

I am writing to protest President Biden's recent announcement mandating the COVID vaccine for all healthcare facilities. This mandate will cause an immediate critical threat to our already extreme nursing shortage, especially Registered Nurses. Our nursing shortage has continued to climb compared to 2020, and we will continue to face high turnover rates due to the mandate.

Without an adequate number of employees, I will be unable to ensure an adequate staffing level to meet the acuity of our patients. Everyday in my hospital, we must move staff around and call staff in who have already worked their regular hours to help cover the needs of our patients. The mandate will only increase the difficulty to adequately staff our nursing departments and further exacerbate nursing burnout.

We have worked tirelessly to protect our staff. We have adequate personal protective equipment for every healthcare provider. In addition, we have only had one (1) employee who experienced an exposure while on the job. Requiring the COVID vaccine or lose your job will put us in a very fragile position. And it is not just my hospital. Every hospital is experiencing a nursing shortage. What are patients supposed to do if there simply is not enough staff to care for them?

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Regards,

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