An Open Letter to Governor Greg Abbott:

Our Republican Party of Texas continues to recognize and applaud your efforts to protect Texans’ Constitutional rights to personal responsibility and medical freedom through Executive Order GA-40 and by calling on the Third Special Session of the 87th Texas Legislature to address vaccine mandates.

As you know, however, no legislation on this topic was passed during the Third Special Session. Since that time, we have seen an ever-increasing number of businesses defy your Executive Order. Executive Order GA-40 was a stop-gap to protect vulnerable Texans, but it alone is simply not enough. We remind you of the Party’s Resolution Defending Medical Freedom and Personal Responsibility which “urges Governor Abbott to add a ban on private vaccine mandates to the special session call, and asks the Texas Legislature to enact laws protecting Texans from public and private vaccine mandates.”

Therefore, we add our voices to that of Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and once again implore you to add a comprehensive ban on vaccine mandates, along with other Republican legislative priorities that have as yet failed to pass, to the call of a Fourth Special Session of the 87th Legislature. The clock is ticking as we seek to protect vulnerable Texans who are having to choose right now between losing their livelihoods or accepting forced administration of a COVID-19 vaccine despite your Executive Order.

Of legislation previously introduced, we are most supportive of HB 168 by Rep. Brian Harrison. We believe that HB 168, by confirming the rights of Texans to give informed consent before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, provides a strong legal standing to resist the Biden administration’s radical Constitutional overreach that many other bills are missing. HB 168 recognizes informed consent, a fundamental principle in medical ethics, which empowers individuals to make decisions and depends on an opt-in, rather than an opt-out, framework. HB 168 also prevents adverse action or penalties of any kind against an individual who chooses not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. HB 168 further allows the Texas Attorney General to sue if a person’s rights are violated, a critical aspect for individuals who lack the means to take on multimillion-dollar corporations. Finally, HB 168 holds healthcare providers who administer a
COVID-19 vaccine without informed consent liable for damages in an amount of not less than $5,000, which provides much needed teeth to enforcement.

We know you have received tremendous pressure from some in the business community to reject these pro-freedom measures. We urge you to continue to stand strong for personal freedom and responsibility against this tide. We strongly believe it is the proper role and function of government to protect our God-given rights, not just from government itself, but from anyone who seeks to trample them. We would remind the business community, if they are fearful of crippling litigation, to take shelter under the freedom that legislation like HB 168 offers and not mandate vaccines for their employees.

Governor Abbott, will you once again stand with us to defend the rights of individual Texans, for whom our Texas and United States Constitutions were written? Will you tell big corporations the liberty and rights of individuals ALWAYS supersede the directives of the businesses that employ them and that NO company or corporation, no matter how big or influential, will be allowed to violate those individuals’ rights in the state of Texas?

We continue to extend to you our deepest gratitude for joining us in defense of individual freedom and liberty. We look forward to your swift and decisive action in defense of the citizens of Texas, and we look forward to a Fourth Special Session!

For Texas and Liberty,

Matt Rinaldi, Chairman, Republican Party of Texas

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