

INTERIM RESOLUTION 2021-

DRAFT

REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO THE CORONAVIRUS 2019 (COVID-19) VACCINE MANDATES ESTABLISHED BY THE CENTER FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES AND SUPPORT FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LITIGATION CONCERNING THE MANDATE.

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services established the Interim Final Rule with Comment Period regarding coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination requirements for staff at Medicare- and Medicaid-certified providers and suppliers on November 5, 2021; and

WHEREAS, this interim final rule has an effective date of November 5, 2021, and a public comment period that ends on January 4, 2022; and

WHEREAS, this interim final rule requires employees and staff for Medicare- and Medicaid-certified providers and suppliers, including hospitals, dialysis facilities, ambulatory surgical settings, home health agencies, and nursing homes, to receive the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination to maintain Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement; and

WHEREAS, several state Attorney Generals, including Arkansas, have joined together to file a lawsuit on November 10, 2021, in a federal court in Missouri challenging this interim final rule; and

WHEREAS, this interim final rule could cause a significant shortage of healthcare professionals in the State of Arkansas, negatively impact the health of the citizens of Arkansas, and further strain the delivery of healthcare in rural parts of the state and healthcare provided to the most vulnerable populations;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council express:

1 (1) Opposition to the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) vaccine
2 mandates established by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and

3 (2) Support for the Attorney General's litigation concerning the
4 vaccine mandate.

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6 BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, that a copy be
7 provided by the Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Legislative Council to
8 the congressional delegation of Arkansas and the Centers of Medicare and
9 Medicaid Services for consideration as public comment on the interim final
10 rule.

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15 Respectfully submitted,

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19 Senator Missy Irvin
20 District 18

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