



Office of the Speaker
South Carolina House of Representatives

P. O. BOX 11867
Columbia 29211
(803) 734-3125

DISTRICT 65
CHESTERFIELD-DARLINGTON-
KERSHAW-LANCASTER
COUNTIES

HOME ADDRESS
1744 GARLAND DRIVE
HARTSVILLE, SC 29550
(843) 383-9421

JAMES H. LUCAS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

September 10, 2021

Dear Caucus Members:

There can be no doubt that recent actions by the Administration are in violation of our nation's constitutional protections. The proposed OSHA regulations that create an unacceptable choice between continued employment and receipt of a vaccine goes against every notion of privacy. The "choice" that these rules create is really no choice at all and amounts to little more than a federal vaccine mandate.

I am vaccinated, as is my family. I believe that the vaccine works to protect us from COVID-19. I do not believe, however, that it is the responsibility of the government, at any level and least of all at the federal level, to decide for individuals if they will receive the vaccine.

I have heard from many of you that it is our responsibility to challenge these clearly inappropriate actions. I agree and I believe that the vast majority, if not all, of our caucus agrees.

Our caucus is the majority of the House of Representatives; therefore, how we choose to push back is extremely important. It serves no purpose for the majority caucus in the House to coalesce around an unenforceable, unconstitutional, improper solution to an unenforceable, unconstitutional, improper problem. More succinctly, two wrongs do not make a right.

We must all understand that there are hurdles to any action by the House. Due to our *sine die resolution*, absent a two-thirds vote from both bodies, the ability of the General Assembly to act on all but a handful of items does not exist. There would be no point to violate our own Constitution in an attempt to correct Washington's violations of the nation's Constitution.

Still, we have a responsibility to act in whatever ways are available to us. I have asked Majority Leader Simrill to schedule a House Republican Caucus meeting in Columbia as soon as possible. I would encourage every member of this caucus to attend that meeting so that we are able to fully explore all available solutions.

House Caucus Members
September 10, 2021
Page Two

Further, I have been in contact with both Governor McMaster and Attorney General Wilson to offer the full support of my office and the South Carolina House to their efforts to combat these unacceptable mandates. These efforts will likely involve the courts and an exercise of full executive authority at the state level. We must support those efforts as we seek to supplement them with our own.

COVID has laid bare deep and stark political fault lines in our state and in our nation. It seems that the issues surrounding this pandemic have taken us all to a place where good and well-meaning policy is being swallowed by soundbites and petty politics. It is my belief that the Administration is taking this opportunity to continue to exploit that political division for their own perceived political gain.

As a caucus, we cannot allow those political fault lines to divide us. If we are to be successful in our efforts to protect the citizens of South Carolina, we must do so as a united front. I ask all of you to please come to Columbia armed with your ideas, with your principles, and with your best thoughts but also to come to Columbia ready to listen to others in your caucus who are equally passionate and equally thoughtful on these complex issues.

I am confident that together we have the ability to do what is right for our state's people. I am equally confident that divided we will see no progress and the status quo will prevail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James H. Lucas".

James H. Lucas
Speaker

JHL:jp