

PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Resolution #295

Introduced by Legislator: Toni Addonizio on behalf of the Health, Social, Educational & Environmental Committee at the Year End Meeting held on December 22, 2021.

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APPROVAL / OPPOSING GOVERNMENT MANDATED COVID-19 VACCINATION

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2021, the federal government announced plans to direct the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) to develop an emergency temporary standard (“ETS”) directed at private-sector businesses with one hundred (100) or more employees to require their employees to either be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus or require any workers who remain unvaccinated to produce a negative test result on at least a weekly basis before coming to work; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the OSHA ETS will impact over 80 million workers in private-sector businesses with one hundred (100) or more employees; and

WHEREAS, in light of the stay recently issued by the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals finding that legal challenges to the ETS are “likely to succeed on the merits,” OSHA has suspended its activities related to the implementation and enforcement of the ETS pending the outcome of the constitutional challenges; and

WHEREAS, on November 29, 2021, a preliminary injunction was issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri against enforcement of the vaccine mandate against any and all Medicare- and Medicaid-certified providers and suppliers within the States of Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, private-sector employers have been overwhelmed by the contingencies, restrictions, and requirements placed upon them due to COVID-19, especially over the last two years; and

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature believes that medical treatment and preventative measures are an individual choice and that the government has no role to play in mandating COVID-19 vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, the County of Putnam implemented a successful campaign and vaccination program to ensure that residents of the County who want to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus have that option and have vaccine administered to them; and

WHEREAS, every citizen who wants a COVID-19 vaccine possesses the right to obtain one, but no COVID-19 vaccine should be mandated by law; and

WHEREAS, people have the right to refuse for themselves, and parents for their children, COVID-19 vaccination based on religious or medical reasons, and every medical intervention requires informed consent and the right of refusal, including the COVID-19 vaccine; now, therefore be it

State of New York

ss:

County of Putnam

I hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution passed by the Putnam County Legislature while in session on December 22, 2021.

Dated: December 27, 2021

Signed: _____

Diane Schonfeld
Clerk of the Legislature of Putnam County

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RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature expresses its opposition to COVID-19 vaccine mandates by any local, state, or federal government that affect citizens' rights to make their own health care choices; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature expresses its opposition to COVID-19 vaccine mandates by any local, state, or federal government that affect parents' rights to make health care decisions in the best interests of their children; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature continues to encourage all citizens who make the individual choice to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus to avail themselves of the many opportunities to receive the vaccine; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature continues to encourage all citizens who make the individual choice not to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus to follow the most recently updated Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Putnam County Legislature shall send certified copies of this Resolution to the President of the United States of America, Joseph R. Biden, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, and to each New York State Senator and Assemblyperson who represents the County of Putnam; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: SEVEN AYES. ONE NAY – LEGISLATOR MONTGOMERY. LEGISLATOR SAYEGH WAS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIES.



State of New York

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Dated: December 27, 2021

Signed: Diane Schonfeld

Diane Schonfeld
Clerk of the Legislature of Putnam County