



March 24, 2022

Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Member, CA State Assembly  
California State Senate  
Capitol Annex Swing Space  
O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819

**AB 1993 – OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) and the 14,000 California small business members, I wish to convey opposition to AB 1993 related to employer-imposed COVID-19 vaccine mandate for employees and contractors.

Why now? Overall, 71% of California's population have been fully vaccinated. And California, along with the rest of the country, is opening back up after a long, business crushing period of shutdowns and business restrictions.

California's COVID numbers are approaching record lows and by all indications, cases are still dropping. As we enter year three of the pandemic, the number of patients hospitalized with the virus, and the test positivity rate have all dropped to a low point. California has not seen COVID numbers this low since the summer of 2021. The test positivity rate, the percent of COVID tests that are positive, dropped below 2% in recent weeks. The state reached positivity rates consistently below 2% for the first time a year ago, and it remained below 2% from early March to early July. Hospitalizations have also dropped to pre-delta levels, with under 3,000 patients for the first time since July 22, 2021.

Most importantly, NFIB argues that an employer mandate restricts the freedom of small business owners to decide how best to operate their businesses and it imposes unwarranted burdens on small businesses that will further threaten their fragile recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. An employer vaccine mandate will result in unrecoverable compliance costs, lost profits, lost sales, and worsen the labor shortage for small businesses.

Small businesses continue to manage unprecedented challenges such as staffing shortages and supply chain disruptions. Additional mandates for small businesses will only intensify those

current challenges and slow down economic recovery. Small business owners depend on the freedom to decide how to run their business.

For these reasons, we must oppose AB 1993.

Sincerely,

John Kabateck  
NFIB California State Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Kabateck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

CC: Member, Assembly Committee on Labor & Employment