

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF LITCHFIELD,  
MAINE URGING REVERSION OF EMERGENCY ROUTINE TECHNICAL RULE 10-144  
CODE OF MAINE RULES CHAPTER 264 "IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR  
HEALTHCARE WORKERS" TO THE PRE-AUGUST 12, 2021 VERSION**

**WHEREAS**, enforcement of a COVID-19 Vaccination mandate on the Town of Litchfield's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel and firefighters, will have far reaching and long-lasting effects on their ability to provide critical public safety services to the citizens of our community. Our fire department and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) are dependent on volunteers. The Town of Litchfield and many EMS agencies are experiencing staffing shortages and record high EMS call volumes.

**WHEREAS**, fire and EMS employees have weathered incredible challenges and stresses throughout the months of this pandemic, and a vaccination mandate is expected to result in more providers leaving the field of EMS, further compromising EMS services, fire suppression, and rescues and adding additional challenges to the providers that remain.

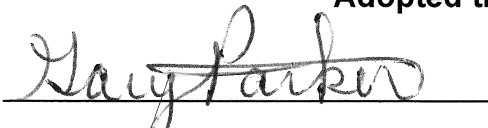
**WHEREAS**, we believe this rule update has been instituted without input or feedback from Maine fire services and with little consideration of the unintended consequences. Fire and EMS leaders from across the State have expressed significant concerns about the loss of staff who have deep-rooted religious or philosophical objections to receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. There is currently only one FDA approved vaccine. The timeline for implementation of the rule leaves only a few weeks for EMS providers to make life changing decisions about their health, beliefs, and the future of their careers in EMS.

**WHEREAS**, the timeline also does not allow for local and county EMS agencies to plan and prepare for the impacts to their agencies.

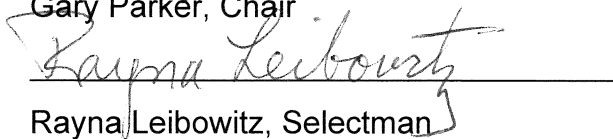
**WHEREAS**, that the state can and should do better. We strongly feel this mandate will weaken the response capability of our EMS and fire department.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Select Board of the Town of Litchfield, urges reversion of Emergency Routine Technical Rule 10-144 Code of Maine Rules Chapter 264 "Immunization Requirements for Healthcare Workers" to the pre-August 12, 2021 version, and calls on the state to do better in planning and implementation of COVID-19 vaccine related safety measures. We will support our Fire Chief, and Fire and EMS Departments by all means at our disposal, including monetarily.

**Adopted this 23rd day of August, 2021**



Gary Parker, Chair

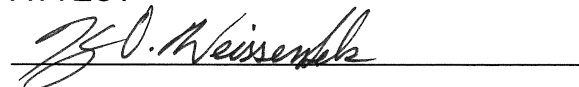


Rayna Leibowitz, Selectman



Clarence Gowell III, Selectman

ATTEST



Kelly D. Weissenfels, Clerk