



TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

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OFFICE OF TOWN MANAGER

August 25th, 2021

Governor Janet Mills
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor Mills,

The enclosed documents from the Litchfield Fire Chief, and the Board of Selectmen, provided to you at the request of their authors, represent more than simple disagreements with current policy. When the most selfless members of the community feel the need to stand up and assert their rights, we should all take note and reassess the direction in which we are headed. Litchfield's Fire Department is staffed 100% by volunteers. Our fire fighters work hand-in-hand with our emergency medical services personnel and therefore our entire fire department is subject to the new rule requiring COVID-19 vaccination. These are people who willingly drop what they are doing at a moment's notice to go to the aid of friends and neighbors. They understand personal sacrifice. For over a year they have operated safely amid the COVID-19 crisis. These are people who are generally in favor of vaccinations, and should not simply be dismissed. Chief Sherman's letter makes it clear how the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) emergency rule change deeply affects many of them personally and will impact the health and safety of our community.

The DHHS COVID-19 vaccine mandate is adversely affecting many communities in Maine, and has clearly touched a nerve in ours. In an effort to keep people safe, the new rule will end up putting more people's lives in jeopardy; not just in our town, but across the state. Please ask DHHS to take a step back and revoke the August 12th update to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate in the Code of Maine Rules Chapter 264, "Immunization Requirements for Healthcare Workers."

Respectfully,

Kelly D. Weissenfels
Town Manager

Encl (3)

Distribution:

DHHS

Senator Timberlake

Representative Greenwood

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