

eComment
Resolution 2021-067

Dorothy Denison

Location:

Submitted At: 4:39pm 09-07-21

I support Resolution 2021-067. No one should be discriminated against for their personal medical choices.

Kristine Schmidt

Location:

Submitted At: 3:44pm 09-07-21

I oppose Resolution 21-067. The resolution as written is confusing and unnecessary. As it says, the Borough has little to no authority to mandate or not mandate vaccines, and has no business taking a position on vaccine mandates.

I'm thankful that my parents didn't elevate their "freedom" over their responsibility as citizens and to their community, when they had me get vaccinated from deadly diseases such as diphtheria (which killed my grandmother) and polio, which killed and maimed so many.

The Alaska Constitution, Article I, Inherent Rights, states: "This constitution is dedicated to the principles that all persons have a natural right to life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and the enjoyment of the rewards of their own industry; that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protection under the law; and that all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State."

Under our own State constitution, our responsibilities are as great as our rights; and that includes our responsibility to minimize our ability to infect others with a deadly virus by getting a vaccine.

Kristine A. Schmidt
513 Ash Avenue
Kenai, Alaska 99611
(907) 283-7102 (home)

Roy Williams

Location:

Submitted At: 3:15pm 09-07-21

I would like to thank the Mayor and assembly members Bjorkman, Derkevorkain and Elam for representing all of the citizens of the Kenai Peninsula, not just those that freely chose to receive the vaccine...please PASS this resolution.

eComment
Resolution 2021-067

Rebecca Carlon

Location:

Submitted At: 3:14pm 09-07-21

I support this resolution

Doyle Brueckner

Location:

Submitted At: 1:22pm 09-07-21

Please pass this resolution. My son is currently having to make the choice of getting vaccinated and keeping his job with Providence hospital or being fired for non-compliance with their vaccine mandate. He is 19 years old and putting him in a position to have to make this choice is wrong. We do not know the long term effects of this vaccine. There is a lot of evidence now coming out that the vaccine is not effective against the newer strains of COVID. If we allow private companies and governments to use the power of coercion in the manner, it will most definitely be just the first crack in the wall of our choices being taken away. How many booster shots will be needed to stay current? Will the next mandate be that we have to get shot up every year to keep our jobs? What about the long term negative effects that haven't yet been studied because there hasn't been time? We all know that the technology used in this vaccine is novel. I have read that there are real concerns with the vaccine causing fertility issues in younger folks. Will I not even be able to have grandchildren because my son was threatened with losing his job? These vaccine mandates basically are telling me and everyone like me that our concerns don't matter. That there are other smarter (ruling class) type folks that will think for me and tell me how best to live. This resolution will go a long way to show folks that the Kenai Penn. Borough is a place where individuals are still trusted to manage their own freedom. Please pass this resolution tonight.

Joe Nichols

Location:

Submitted At: 1:02pm 09-07-21

I'm strongly opposed to resolution f. 2021-067, not because I'm opposed to citizen choice, but because I'm opposed to what is a thinly veiled political ploy that has no benefit from any legislative or legal perspective, is a waste of tax-payer dollars, and ultimately is used to push a narrative that needlessly extends a public health crisis, causing more illness, sickness, and death in our community.

It is exceedingly gross that this conversation is occurring while we are in the midst of the strongest wave of the pandemic, a pandemic that has killed hundreds of Alaskans and hundreds of thousands of Americans. While our local hospital is fighting to be able to serve anyone that comes in the door and is teetering on triage protocol for having to make the decision of who receives life-saving care, our leadership team is not only effectively plugging their ears and covering their eyes to the unfolding crisis, but actually promoting the crisis to continue further and get worse. Is this what it takes to constitute leadership for KPBF?

eComment
Resolution 2021-067

To Assembly Mayor and Members Pierce, Bjorkman, Derkevorkian, and Elam: I wonder what is to gain by poisoning discussion around a safe and effective vaccine. A vaccine that is not experimental (it left that stage when it passed into Emergency Use Authorization, it is currently only considered experimental and in studies for those under 12) and at this point has full FDA approval. This vaccine is just as safe as any of the numerous other vaccines that these Borough members almost certainly have already received on a regular basis, which are protecting from diseases that statistically are much less likely to cause severe illness or death than our current COVID19 community case load. These are your own supporters, your own community, one would think that as an elected official one would want to minimize or reduce illness and death among constituents to continue to win elections.

Vaccine mandates are nothing new in Alaska, and I see no further discussion on the docket for the many other safe vaccines that are already mandated at a state level. What of DTap, IPV, MMRV, HEP B, HEP A vaccines that are mandated for school and many other public places? These are constitutionally protected mandates, after all individual freedom ends where it impinges on the ability of another to also have freedom, which includes freedom of health. One does not have freedom to dump toxic waste into the Kenai that would sicken and ill those downstream, is it truly a hard concept to grasp that this also applies to the air we breath, not just the water we drink or food we eat?

It is truly ironic that "small government" conservatives would spend tax-payer dollars over time spent in a meeting to debate the legislative advantages of a resolution which has no legislative or legal basis, it does effectively nothing besides poison the narrative around safe vaccines and quite literally burning tax-payer dollars since it effectively does nothing. KPB is a second-class borough, it has no ability to mandate health of its constituents directly.

Finally, and directly to Mayor Pierce, I would add that your comments to both the CPGH director and around the usage of Ivermectin has made KPB notorious at a national news level, but not in a positive way. KPB has again received pickup by national news sources due to his explicit comments promoting conspiracy theory medicine, a theory that has increased calls to Poison Control that services Alaska by more than 5x. As a borough that relies heavily on tourist dollars, it would behoove us to take into account how these comments make us perceived at a national level and the negative impacts we will see down the line as traveling people will be less likely to visit an area they feel is more unsafe. Not only are these comments exceedingly dangerous and inaccurate, they make us a laughingstock to the very people we rely on for our economy. Mr. Pierce is not a medical professional, and I recommend he keeps his uninformed opinions to himself if he wants to see the borough succeed under his term.

Linda Joy

Location:

Submitted At: 11:20am 09-07-21

Please pass this resolution in the name of freedom of choice.

Kathryn Vengley

Location:

Submitted At: 11:10am 09-07-21

Vaccines, especially one that is so new... shouldn't be mandated and should be a personal choice. A private medical choice.

eComment
Resolution 2021-067

brigitte pichotta

Location:

Submitted At: 11:09am 09-07-21

I definitely support our right to free choice.

Wendy Milligan

Location:

Submitted At: 10:40am 09-07-21

The borough should pass this resolution, because the vaccine is not necessarily safe for all and covid is not necessarily dangerous for all, the vaccine has no guaranteed success rate, and as citizens, we have unalienable rights.

The vaccine is not necessarily safe for all. Despite what the media outlets report, an actual reading of the vaccine inserts themselves show that there are side effects. Every individual person has a different biological makeup. Allergies, immune system anomalies, and even gut microbes influence both the effectiveness of and the bodies' response to a vaccine. Can employers effectively moderate who can take the vaccine safely? Is that even their job? Are employers willing to take liability for any potential negative reactions? Due its very nature, no long-term studies have been done. If employers are allowed to mandate the vaccine as a condition of employment, then they should be held liable for at least the next 20 years for potential adverse effects. The official agencies all day "safety monitoring is ongoing." Long-term safety studies should be conducted on the willing, not the forced. The differences in biological responses is obvious in that covid has proven to be highly problematic for some while nothing more than an inconvenient cold for others. No one seems to question that different people respond differently to the illness, yet the "pro-vax" propaganda proponents scream "you're selfish and stupid!" at those who mention that people respond differently to vaccines. Instilling measures like a monthly increase in insurance premiums or a fine meant to coerce employees into getting the vaccine is unfair to those who are not at risk for covid. Some people take better care of themselves or simply have none of the comorbidities that are common in those who contract serious cases of covid. Should they be punished with a broad-stroke mandate? Can anyone prove that any individual is a covid risk to others? No! Can anyone prove that the vaccine will be risk-free for a particular individual? No! Where there is risk, there also needs to be choice. The vaccine will not keep someone from getting covid, nor will it prevent someone from spreading it. It's purported benefit is in reducing the symptoms, which in effect simply provides a false sense of security and an easier means of it being spread. Is that really what employers want, sick employees who have lesser symptoms so they come in to work and transmit it?

Employer-mandated vaccines will hold employees at economic gunpoint...hardly the cornerstone of a free society. Do we, or do we not, have the unalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? Most people simply want to provide for their families by making an honest living. Don't let misguided and fearful employers jeopardize that...the risks are high and the benefits are low.

eComment
Resolution 2021-067

Wayne Aderhold

Location:

Submitted At: 10:10pm 09-06-21

I am all for an inclusive community ... but opposed to Resolution 2021-067 without major revision. We are lucky enough to be living in a rich country whose government wisely pulled out all the financial stops to enable the private sector to develop a (free!) vaccine through the "Operation Warp Speed" under both Administrations. The vaccine was, and still is, the only competent endgame against Covid-19. Mandates for the vaccine, masks etc. shouldn't be necessary but "we, the people" have shown ourselves to be vulnerable to misinformation and disinformation on a grand scale, so in the interest of public health it has become necessary for the government to step in to protect vulnerable people from severe illness and death.

The U.S. and Alaskan Constitutions are both 'Social Contracts' which rely on our agreement to accept some restraints on our liberty in exchange for safety and protection (including from anarchy) from our government. T. McDarrah (Forbes) summarizes the arrangement:

"Importantly, every U.S. citizen must agree to this [social contract] for the Constitution to hold any weight. If only followed by a few, it would simply be a piece of paper. Just like any social contract, it is the fact that everyone must follow it that gives it its power. This same logic is consistent for the vaccine. If only a few people receive the vaccine, its positive effects may help the individual but would offer little to no barrier to stop the spread of the virus throughout the population. The "peace of defence" that the vaccine provides is only available if a high threshold of people agree to receive it. This especially protects the most vulnerable, such as babies and individuals with certain contraindications to vaccines. As more and more people exchange the liberty of opting not to get the vaccine for the personal safety that the vaccine provides, they are also shareholders in the alliance of public health and well-being. This is the vaccine Social Contract." The ACLU recently published its position on vaccine mandates saying in part that in most circumstances objections to mandates are unfounded: "Vaccines are a justifiable intrusion on autonomy and bodily integrity. That may sound ominous, because we all have the fundamental right to bodily integrity and to make our own health care decisions. But these rights are not absolute. They do not include the right to inflict harm on others." I hear an awful lot about "rights" and "liberty" these days, but not much about the other side of the equation: responsibilities. It might be helpful to refresh on the last part of Article 1, Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution: " ... and that all persons have corresponding obligations to the people and to the State."

In general, I tend heavily toward libertarian principles when it comes to healthcare decisions with respect to my health. I have likely have opted for more "fringe" and "experimental" treatments than most people in this Borough, but they are always based on sound science and critical thinking. The vaccine, masking, and other minor inconveniences toward reducing and eventually "taming" Covid-19 are for public health and fully justified. Not a single one of my providers has recommended substituting anything for the vaccine or the other CDC guidelines. Boosting one's immune system is always a good idea, but not a substitute for the "Covid measures". True patriotism and responsible citizenship demands that all but a very select few follow our "social contract" and conform to our government's recommendations (and mandates, if needed). Weak excuses and bad information from elected officials should not get "cover" through KPB Resolutions.

T. McDarrah, "Nasty, Brutish And Too Long: The 2021 Social Contract Of Covid Vaccines", Forbes (online), March 24, 2021

D. Cole & D. Mach, ACLU, "Civil Liberties and Vaccine Mandates: Here's Our Take", (Online & originally in New York Times), September 2, 2021

W. Aderhold

eComment
Resolution 2021-067

Christine Hutchison

Location:

Submitted At: 3:44pm 09-06-21

REGRET THIS MAY APPEAR MULTIPLE TIMES

Resolution 2021-067 I fully support this resolution. I wish it could be an ordinance but I understand why it is not. I commend the assembly people who brought and support this resolution. It is the responsibility according to their oath for assembly people to defend and promote my liberties and rights under the US constitution. It is my right to make my own decisions for my health care. Those decisions include, but are not limited to, whether I will put experimental materials into my body. The KPB assembly would certainly not promote or encourage me to put experimental drugs of a recreational use into my body and I am sure they are not knowingly encouraging me now to put experimental drugs into my body.

Further, according to the US constitution I have a right to gather without government interference and I appreciate this assembly ensuring that right is upheld for me here on the kenai peninsula. I believe Mayor Charlie Pierce should commended for vocalizing to the central peninsula hospital their failure to enable my rights here on the peninsula and treat all patients with compassion. But again I understand the federal constraints under which CPH operates. Thank you federal government, NOT.

Should this resolution fail to pass the assembly at the September 7, 2021 meeting, I shall view a no vote as a failure to defend my inalienable rights to life and liberty as called for according to their oath.

Anastasia Scheele

Location:

Submitted At: 4:35am 09-04-21

Please pass this!!

Jayme Millett

Location:

Submitted At: 8:53pm 09-03-21

This is a ridiculous push of power. It is not the political parties job to decide what we citizens do with our bodies concerning medical care.... this vaccine will kill me, I an severly allergic to polysorbate and polyethylene glucose if I take it I will die and I'm sorry I choose life and if you pass this law you make it to where I am not allowed to work to support my family.... putting myself and my family in risk. IT IS NOT YOUR JOB TO PLAY DOCTOR YOU CHOSE THE POLITICAL WORLD NOT THE MEDICAL WORLD... AND YOU GUYS HAVE NO IDEA THE CHEMICALS THEY PUT IN VACCINATIONS THAT WILL KILL PEOPLE LIKE MYSELF

eComment
Resolution 2021-067

Summer Armstrong

Location:

Submitted At: 10:45pm 09-02-21

People who are young and healthy take less risk exposing themselves to any infection... flu, pneumonia, rhinovirus... that's always been true and always will be. Our civilized society should never be pushing a "vaccine" with so many complications!!!

Lynda Paquette

Location:

Submitted At: 3:13pm 09-02-21

This piece of legislation is ill-conceived and highly misguided and should not get implemented. We are amidst a health emergency and crisis that has only worsened because of similar thoughts to this legislation. This legislation appears to encourage a blatant disregard for our neighbors and community with a "you can't make me" approach. This legislation also seems to promote the right to hold superspreader events.

The United States has a long history of vaccination requirements. For example, the first school vaccination requirement began in the 1850s in Massachusetts to prevent the spread of smallpox.

Those of us who are old enough remember getting our polio vaccines. I still have a significant mark on my leg; many folks' spots are on their upper arms.

All 50 states and DC require the DTap vaccine (or another vaccine combination for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) for kindergarten entry.

All 50 states and DC require the IPV vaccine for kindergarten entry.

All 50 states and DC require the varicella vaccine for kindergarten entry, though some will accept proof of immunity instead of vaccination. Some states list the MMRV (measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella) vaccine as appropriate.

Forty-nine states (including Alaska) and DC require the MMR vaccine for kindergarten entry. Some states list the MMRV (measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella) vaccine as appropriate.

Forty-four states (including Alaska) and DC require the Hep B vaccine for kindergarten entry.

Seventeen states (including Alaska) require the Hep A vaccine for kindergarten entry.

This proposed legislation suggests that it's perfectly ok for someone to be sick and infect other people simply because of their rights and personal freedom not to get a shot.

Yet, we live in a country that has firmly established those are NOT our values.

This legislation is a perverted attempt to twist the meaning of freedom into something lethal and dangerous.

eComment
Resolution 2021-067

Businesses need a way to ensure everyone will stay healthy, both employees and customers.

As a hotelier, I see a significant risk to my employees if they have not gotten inoculated against Covid-19. Not only are they at risk of becoming sick, but if they become sick, it puts the business out of business. I feel the need to require my employees to have had their shots. I do this for their safety, and so the company can remain viable. If I understand this legislation correctly, if it passes, it will prevent me from this right. That is unacceptable and will get immediately challenged in court.

Save yourself the heartache and expense, and do not pass this misguided attempt to justify perpetuating a health emergency.

The insanity that you folks are entertaining in the guise of "government" is frightening. I'm counting on the rest of the assembly members to reign this craziness in. Thank you.