



From the Office of Representative Sean Roberts



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Legislature Starts to Gather Signatures for Special Session Relating to COVID-19

OKLAHOMA CITY - Pursuant to Section 27A of Article V of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, lawmakers are starting to gather signatures for a special session to prohibit vaccine mandates for Oklahoma workers, address vaccine passports, and address non-compliance to SB658. Specifically, the special session would be called for "issues related to COVID-19 that are a matter of statewide concern and affect public health and safety". This comes in response to constituent concerns about healthcare institutions and other employers across Oklahoma requiring employees to receive COVID-19 vaccinations as a condition of continued employment.

In July, multiple legislators signed on to three letters that were sent to the executive branch to request an executive order or to call the legislature into a special session to address medical tyranny. It is still possible for the executive branch to do this, but our offices continue to receive more reports of religious and medical COVID-19 vaccine exemptions being denied. It is clear that time is of the essence.

"This issue requires the immediate attention of our state government," said Rep. Sean Roberts, R-Hominy. "These employees are the heroes that stood on the front line of the pandemic caring for those that had fallen ill to COVID-19. I have received numerous reports of healthcare worker's medical and religious exceptions being denied. All options are on the table to protect individuals from mandatory vaccinations, including removing tax incentives from those that require vaccines of their employees."

Senator Hamilton also sent a letter to the executive branch requesting a special session in late July. In his letter, Senator Hamilton states "Informed consent is non-negotiable, 'consent' being the keyword. For [many] health care professionals, the hospital-mandated deadline is September 1st. Many, faced with the threat of financial ruin have already violated their consciences and put their health at severe risk in order to provide for their families."

Two-thirds of the membership of the Oklahoma Senate and House of Representatives are needed. The special session is set to convene on August 30th at noon, just prior to the September 1st deadline given to many health professionals.

Sean Roberts represents District 36 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, which includes parts of Osage and Tulsa counties.