

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ICYMI: Governor Ron DeSantis Works to Keep Floridians Free and Protect Seniors' Jobs

**TALLAHASSEE** – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis upheld Florida's freedoms by signing legislation that protects the employment of all adults by prohibiting COVID-19 vaccine mandates by private employers and government entities. Additional legislation ensures similar freedoms are available within school districts and at educational institutions. During the Special Session, legislators passed bills to protect families and employees from the undue burdens of mandatory mask and vaccine requirements. Read about the legislation [HERE](#).

“I told Floridians that we would protect their jobs and today we made that the law,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. “Nobody should lose their job due to heavy-handed COVID mandates and we had a responsibility to protect the livelihoods of the people of Florida. I’m thankful to the Florida Legislature for joining me in standing up for freedom.”

“Aging with purpose and independence is a cornerstone of what the Aging Network and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) stand for,” said **DOEA Secretary Richard Prudom**. “Older adults may already face challenges when it comes to employment because of their age. This new law will assist seniors in keeping their jobs and allow them to make their own decision when it comes to protecting themselves from COVID-19.”

Some highlights of this new and important legislation include:

- Private Employer COVID-19 vaccine mandates are prohibited.
- Employers who violate these employee health protections will be fined.
- Government entities may not require COVID-19 vaccinations of anyone, including employees.

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### *About the Florida Department of Elder Affairs*

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the State Unit on Aging, helps Florida's elders to remain healthy, safe, and independent. The Department provides most direct services through its Division of Statewide Community-Based Services, which works through the state's 11 Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers to deliver essential services to a vital segment of the population. For more information, please visit [www.elderaffairs.org](http://www.elderaffairs.org).

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