

Far-Right Extremist Groups Are Working Overtime to Prolong the Pandemic, Putting Lives At Risk

[Analysis](#) shows voters in red states are dying from COVID-19 at disproportionately high rates, with press reports making it clear that far-right, extremist groups are directly contributing to higher death rates and undermining our economic recovery. While President Biden works to increase vaccinations and end this crisis, extremists and their allies continue to push disinformation, attack masks and other safety measures, and [go to court](#) to stop vaccine requirements. By slowing down vaccinations, these groups are prolonging the pandemic and harming the economy in hopes of political gain for their Republican allies. The lawsuits brought and amicus briefs filed against vaccination and testing requirements clearly demonstrate the work of politically motivated activists, not medical experts guided by science.

Alliance Defending Freedom

Alliance Defending Freedom Has Filed Multiple Suits Against Federal Vaccine Mandates.

“Americans may have different opinions about COVID-19 vaccines, but every American should agree that the government’s national vaccine mandate is a vast and unlawful power grab by the executive branch. Just weeks after the administration all but admitted that a mandate was ‘not the role of the federal government,’ President Biden announced that he would impose a national vaccine mandate on all employers with 100 or more employees. Americans have already had their freedoms infringed upon due to COVID-19. The Biden administration’s flip flop on a national vaccine mandate is another threat to freedom that cannot stand. If politicians and bureaucrats are allowed to brazenly ignore the constitutional limits on their power whenever they please, we no longer live in a free society. That’s why ADF has filed federal lawsuits and emergency motions on behalf of multiple private employers, including a number of religious organizations, challenging the Biden administration’s unlawful private employer mandate.” [ADFLegal.org, accessed [11/15/21](#)]

America First Legal

America First Legal Is One Of The Parties To The Suit Challenging The Biden Administration’s Vaccine Mandate For Private Employers. “Today, America First Legal and the Texas Public Policy Foundation’s Center for the American Future filed a petition in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit challenging the Biden Administration’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate for private employers.” [America First Legal Press Release, [11/5/21](#)]

- **Stephen Miller Believes That His Suit Against Vaccine Mandates Will “Save Our Liberties And Our Constitutional System Of Government.”** “Statement From America First Legal President Stephen Miller: ‘These imperial executive mandates are unlawful, unconstitutional, unacceptable, unconscionable and un-American. America First Legal and the Texas Public Policy Foundation have filed these historic lawsuits to defeat these

illegal decrees and save our liberties and our constitutional system of government.”
[America First Legal Press Release, [11/5/21](#)]

America First Legal Was Established By Former Trump Aide Stephen Miller “To Make Joe Biden’s Life Miserable.” “Former Trump White House policy adviser Stephen Miller, known for his hard-line immigration policies and conservative culture war postures, is launching a new legal group. And he’s looking to use it to make Joe Biden’s life miserable. The group, which will be known as America First Legal, will help organize Republican attorneys general against perceived executive branch abuses in addition to filing lawsuits of its own, according to six people familiar with the planning.” [Politico, [3/26/21](#)]

AFL’s Board Includes Former Trump Officials Mark Meadows, Russ Vought, And Matthew Whitaker. “A Trumpist answer to legal groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Common Cause, AFL is the latest example of the former president’s inner circle seeking to rouse his movement as he weighs a possible 2024 run to return to the White House. AFL’s board includes Miller, former Trump White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, former Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought, and former acting U.S. Attorney General Matthew Whitaker.” [Bloomberg, [10/12/21](#)]

The Daily Wire

Far Right News Site *The Daily Wire* Filed Suit Against The Large Employer Vaccine Or Testing Mandate. “The Daily Wire filed a lawsuit against the federal government on Thursday over President Joe Biden’s order mandating that large employers must require their employees be vaccinated against COVID-19 or submit to regular testing. The Dhillon Law Group, Inc. and Alliance Defending Freedom filed the legal challenge on behalf of The Daily Wire in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit. The mandate requires all private employers of 100 or more employees to force unvaccinated employees to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, be subject to weekly testing, or lose their job. Attorneys for The Daily Wire will also file an emergency motion to stay the mandate. ‘The Daily Wire will not comply with President Biden’s tyrannical vaccine mandate, and we are suing the Biden Administration to put a stop to their gross overreach,’ said Daily Wire Co-Founder and Co-CEO Jeremy Boreing. ‘President Biden, the federal government, social media, and the establishment media have conspired to rob Americans of their freedoms in the name of public health. They have broken faith with the American people through conflicting messaging, false information, and by suppressing data and perspectives with which they disagree.’” [Daily Wire, [11/4/21](#)]

The Daily Wire Was Founded With Startup Capital From Fracking Magnate Farris Wilks.

“Initially funded by fracking magnate Farris Wilks, the company has not had to seek any outside backers, according to Boreing, and became cash-flow positive within 14 months—10 months ahead of schedule.” [Vanity Fair, [12/9/18](#)]

First Liberty Institute

First Liberty Institute Filed Suit Against The Vaccine Mandate For Private Employers On Behalf Of National Religious Organizations. “The Biden administration recently put in place a federal vaccine mandate on businesses with 100 or more employees. Companies, including religious organizations and faith-based businesses, will have to require their staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or undergo weekly testing—a rule that could threaten religious liberty in the workplace. The policy was met with a wave of legal challenges nationwide, including First Liberty filing lawsuits on behalf of three prominent national religious organizations—Daystar Television Network, American Family Association and Answers in Genesis—asking two federal appellate courts to review the rule. In the lawsuit, our legal team explains that our clients cannot in good conscience force their employees to violate their religious beliefs and convictions regarding vaccines.” [First Liberty Institute Press Release, [11/12/21](#)]

First Liberty Institute Received At Least \$50,000 From The Right Wing Bradley Foundation. In 2020, the First Liberty Institute received a \$50,000 contribution from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation “to support general operations.” [Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation, [2020 Year in Review](#)]

Liberty Justice Center

Liberty Justice Center Filed Suit Against The Vaccine Mandate For Private Employers. “The federal government has been ordered to halt all implementation and enforcement of its COVID vaccine and testing mandate following the request by petitioner and Louisiana business owner Brandon Trosclair and a group of employees from Texas who sued over the mandate last week. The ruling from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans represents a complete victory in this stage of the fight against the mandate. The court has ordered the Biden Administration to halt all enforcement of the mandate while legal challenges work their way through the federal court system. The ruling issued today by the Fifth Circuit was in direct response to the request for extended stay filed by the national law firm the Liberty Justice Center and the Louisiana-based Pelican Institute for Public Policy.” [Liberty Justice Center Press Release, [11/12/21](#)]

Richard Uihlein Was “The Chief Financial Backer” Of The Liberty Justice Center. “Tax filings show that [Richard] Uihlein has also been the chief financial backer in recent years of the Liberty Justice Center, which represents Mark Janus, the Illinois child support specialist who is the plaintiff in the Supreme Court case.” [New York Times, [2/25/18](#)]

The Liberty Justice Center Is The Legal Arm Of The Illinois Policy Institute, Funded By The Ed Uihlein Family Foundation, The Charles Koch Institute, And The Lynde And Harry Bradley Foundation. “The Liberty Justice Center (LJC) is the legal arm of an Illinois-based conservative think tank called the Illinois Policy Institute (IPI). A review of LJC and IPI’s 990s provides a

limited view of their financial profile, but it is clear that they survive off of the same core group of corporate-backed organizations that contribute to many political and legal fights against unions. Donors Trust, the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the Ed Uihlein Family Foundation, Dunn's Foundation for the Advancement of Right Thinking, and the Charles Koch Institute have supported the Illinois Policy Institute and Liberty Justice Center." [Economic Policy Institute, [2/21/18](#)]

Pelican Institute for Public Policy

The Pelican Institute Filed Suit Against The Vaccine Mandate For Private Employers. "The federal government has been ordered to halt all implementation and enforcement of its COVID vaccine and testing mandate following the request by petitioner and business owner Brandon Trosclair and a group of employees from Texas who sued over the mandate last week. The ruling from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans represents a complete victory in this stage of the fight against the mandate. The court has ordered the Biden Administration to halt all enforcement of the mandate while legal challenges work their way through the federal court system. The ruling issued today by the Fifth Circuit was in direct response to the request for extended stay filed by the national law firm the Liberty Justice Center and the Pelican Institute for Public Policy." [Pelican Institute for Public Policy Press Release, [11/12/21](#)]

The Pelican Institute For Public Policy Received At Least \$122,000 In Funding From The Charles Koch Foundation As Part Of The State Policy Network. "Fourteen 'affiliate' members in the State Policy Network (SPN), a web of right-wing 'think tanks,' advocacy groups, and other registered nonprofits in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Canada, and the United Kingdom, received \$3.2 million in CKF funding in 2018. [...] Other SPN groups that received CKF funding in 2018 are: Pelican Institute (LA): \$122,000." [PR Watch, [11/19/19](#)]

Texas Public Policy Foundation

Representing "A Coalition Of Texas Temporary Staffing Businesses" The Texas Public Policy Foundation Filed Suit Against The Vaccine Mandate For Private Employers. "Today, the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for the American Future and America First Legal filed suit to challenge the Biden administration's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for private employers. TPPF represents a coalition of Texas temporary staffing businesses who are challenging the constitutionality of the mandate. 'Our clients believe that the decision to be vaccinated should be made by individuals and their doctors—not the federal government,' said Robert Henneke, general counsel for TPPF. 'In addition to turning private employers into federal vaccine enforcers, the rule will also result in many individuals leaving the workforce entirely, accelerating a trend that has devastated our economic recovery from the pandemic.'" [Texas Public Policy Foundation Press Release, [11/5/21](#)]

Texas Public Policy Foundation Is One Of The Most Active Groups In the Koch-Funded Network Of State “Think Tanks.” “Based in Austin, Texas, TPPF has been one of the most active think tanks in a national network of Koch-funded groups. By the late 2000s, it had become the favored policy group for members of the Tea Party in Texas, many of whom are Trump’s strongest supporters. Since Obamacare became law in 2010, TPPF made repealing the Obama administration’s landmark health care legislation one of its top priorities. It’s also a staunch supporter of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ efforts to privatize the nation’s education system. Through its advocacy of far-right policy positions and its fundraising prowess, TPPF has joined the Heritage Foundation and other well-established national think tanks as the go-to policy shops for the president and his band of ultra-conservatives.” [Think Progress, [7/31/18](#)]

TPPF Is Funded By The Koch Brothers, The Ed Uihlein Family Foundation, And The Lynde And Harry Bradley Foundation. Donors to the Texas Public Policy Foundation from 2010-2019 included the Adolph Coors Foundation, the Charles G. Koch Foundation, the Ed Uihlein Family Foundation, and the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. [SourceWatch, [accessed 11/17/21](#)]

America’s Frontline Doctors

America’s Frontline Doctors Are Seeking To Halt All COVID-19 Vaccinations While Peddling Medical Disinformation. “America’s Frontline Doctors filed a motion in federal court [in July 2021] against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the parent agency of the FDA, to seek an injunction that would halt all vaccinations for COVID-19 in the country. [Gizmodo, [7/20/21](#)]

PolitiFact Confirmed The Group’s Ties To Republican Politicians And Conservative Media. “Tea Party Patriots, a conservative group that is part of a coalition to end state lockdowns aimed at preventing the spread of the virus, organized the press conference [outside the Supreme Court, with America’s Frontline Doctors calling for the use of hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19.] Republican Rep. Ralph Norman of South Carolina introduced the doctors at the beginning of the video. Breitbart, a conservative news site, recorded the event.” [PolitiFact, [7/28/20](#)]

America’s Frontline Doctors’ SCOTUS Amicus Brief Is Riddled With Factual Inaccuracies And Political Attacks On OSHA. “It is the consensus of the medical community that the currently available Covid-19 vaccine injections do not prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2. Relevant federal agencies have repeatedly acknowledged this consensus...it is universally accepted that the Covid-19 injections do not stop the transmission or acquisition of the virus between persons...Accordingly, requiring Covid-19 ‘vaccination’ serves no compelling state interest at all, and fails the fundamental prong of the strict scrutiny test.” [America’s Frontline Doctors Amicus Brief, [12/30/21](#)]