
Fair Removal of Existing and Enforced Bans on Immunization Relating to Destination (FREEBIRD) Act

Americans have largely moved on to post-pandemic normality.¹ However, many are still kept from doing so due to an unnecessary vaccine mandate. Right now, foreign travelers, including family members, friends, and business relations, are being kept off of U.S. soil due to the air travel vaccine mandate, which remains for nonimmigrant, noncitizen foreign travelers. The United States is one of the only countries that still imposes this mandate.²

This mandate levies a heavy cost on both state and local economies as well as Americans' relationships. Continuing a vaccine mandate, at a time when the pandemic is over and the public emergency designation is drawing to a close, is unjustified and ignores the new risk calculus that has allowed Americans to enjoy to normal. We now know that the COVID vaccines do not prevent transmission and are less effective³ against new, weaker variants.⁴

To address this problem, Rep. Thomas Massie introduced H.R. 185 in the House, which passed the chamber with bipartisan support on February 8.⁵ Senator Lee will introduce this legislation in the Senate to bring policy into alignment and to benefit both Americans and those visiting from abroad.

Bill Specifics

- Declares that the CDC's requirement "shall have no force or effect" upon the bill's enactment
- Prohibits Federal funds from being used to carry out the CDC requirement
- Prevents the CDC from ordering future COVID-19 vaccine mandates for foreign travelers
- Requires a report from the CDC on the number of visitors denied entry due to this order since April 7, 2022
- Explicitly states that this bill may not be construed to affect the CDC's requirements for a negative COVID test for air travelers coming from China.

¹ Justin McCarthy, "Roundup of Gallup COVID-19 Coverage," [Gallup](#), November 29, 2022.

² Justin Ocean, Allison Smith and Marina Stanley, "Where You Can Travel Now Without a Covid Vaccine or Test," [Bloomberg](#), September 30, 2022.

³ Julia Bonavitacola, "4-Dose COVID-19 Vaccine Less Effective Beyond 90 Days," [American Journal of Managed Care](#), January 16, 2023.

⁴ "Encouraging study shows COVID-19 variants weaker than originals," [Healthcare Purchasing News](#), October 27, 2022.

⁵ "Roll Call 116 | Bill Number: H.R. 185," [Clerk.house.gov](#).

For more information concerning this bill or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Sam Paepke (sam_paepke@lee.senate.gov) in Senator Lee's office.