



March 25, 2022

Hon. Ash Kalra
Chair, Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment
Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5130
Sacramento, CA 92429

RE: AB 1993 (Wicks): Employer COVID Vaccination Requirements

Dear Assemblymember Kalra:

On behalf of UCAN – the United Chamber Advocacy Network, which includes ten local chambers of commerce, representing over 6,000 employers in four northern California counties, we strongly oppose Assembly Bill 1993 (Wicks) which would require employers to validate and record the vaccination status of all employees and independent contractors.

AB 1993 creates a division and diminution of trust between employers and their employees and contractors at a critical time after two years of anxiety and apprehension, when small business and employers are seeking to put the COVID pandemic behind us, build back their businesses, serve their customers and pay their valuable employees.

AB 1993 is an emergency measure to address an emergency that has already passed:

- As noted by Governor Gavin Newsom, California has entered the endemic phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, which began two years ago, in March, 2020.
- The seven-day average of COVID related deaths has fallen from a high of 694 on January 12, 2021 to 50 on March 5 of this year.
- On March 22 of this year, according to the website [USAFacts](https://www.usafacts.com), California reported **zero** new COVID cases and **zero** new COVID deaths.

For most Californians, outside of the 95814 zip code, COVID is over. When asked in a January UCAN survey, what could the state legislature do to assist businesses impacted by COVID, 69% of respondents said, “end COVID restrictions.” When specifically asked if they supported the state requiring employers to verify vaccination status of their employees, 69% replied “no.”

We respectfully urge you to listen to the voices of California’s small business owners, the lifeblood of our local communities and the state’s economy. We respectfully ask you to vote “NO” on AB 1993.

Sincerely,

David N. Butler
Advocate

UCAN - United Chamber Advocacy Network

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El Dorado County, El Dorado Hills, Elk Grove, Folsom, Lincoln, Rancho Cordova, Rocklin, Roseville, Yuba-Sutter Chambers of Commerce