

Republicans vow mass disobedience and lawsuits in fight against Biden vaccine mandate



Rep. Dan Crenshaw, R-Tex. Drew Angerer/Getty Images

- The GOP has dialed up attacks on Biden’s vaccine mandates.
 - The president’s workplace vaccine requirements were immediately met with alarm in right-wing media.
 - Some GOP lawmakers took matters further, calling for mass disobedience and suggesting “revolt.”
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In a prime example of post-Trump presidency rapid response, Republican lawmakers and conservative pundits greeted President Joe Biden’s newly announced federal vaccine requirements with alarm on Thursday and Friday.

Biden rolled out a slew of measures to boost vaccination rates nationwide, requiring proof of vaccination for federal workers and anyone working at a business with at least 100 employees. If people choose to opt out, they will have

to submit to weekly COVID-19 testing, a costly and cumbersome alternative to the free vaccine.

Despite strong support for vaccine mandates across the American public and Trump himself still occasionally touting the COVID-19 vaccines, the conversation on the right almost immediately turned to warnings of “tyranny,” calls for mass disobedience, lawsuits, and questions of a possible “revolt” from the unvaccinated.

Without Trump leading this particular line of messaging, GOP lawmakers and prominent media personalities echoed similar sentiments heard at school board meetings when mask mandates began to draw vocal backlash.

“Are you people trying to start a full on revolt?” Republican Rep. Dan Crenshaw of Texas tweeted right after Biden’s speech on Thursday. “Honestly what the hell is wrong with Democrats? Leave people the hell alone. This is insanity.”

“I’ll repeat myself: don’t comply,” Republican Ohio Senate candidate and “Hillbilly Elegy” author J.D. Vance tweeted. “If all of us ignore this garbage they won’t be able to enforce it.”

Dan Crenshaw@DanCrenshawTX

Sep 9, 2021

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Philip Melanchthon Wegmann@PhilipWegmann

Biden to direct the Labor Department to develop rule requiring any employer with 100 or more employees to get their workforce vaccinated or require unvaccinated employees to test negative on “a weekly basis.”



Dan Crenshaw@DanCrenshawTX

Mandates are cheap governance. The right path is built upon explaining, educating, and *building* trust, including explaining the risks/benefits/pros/cons in an honest way so a person can make their own decision. The Biden Administration has completely failed in that regard.

For several months, COVID-19 vaccines have been available for free to adults without requiring any proof of insurance or a preexisting medical condition. Still, Crenshaw and several other conservative figures bemoaned Biden for not doing more to convince Americans to get vaccinated.

Biden shifted from relying solely on persuasion during his Thursday remarks, saying: “Many of us are frustrated with the nearly 80 million Americans who are still not vaccinated. This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated.”

“Joe Biden is threatening the unvaccinated more than he’s threatening the Taliban,” Fox News host Jesse Watters responded during his Thursday night monologue.

Similar to Fox News’ broader coverage of the pandemic — which has included the occasional on-air dustup between hosts over the legitimacy of public health measures — the issues raised are less with the efficacy of the vaccines than with the credibility of the pro-vaccine messengers.

Banners on the network read “BIDEN IS AN AUTHORITARIAN” and “BIDEN DECLARES WAR ON MILLIONS OF AMERICANS.”

And Alabama GOP Rep. Barry Moore of tweeted: “The decision to get vaccinated lies between you and your doctor - NOT the federal government. We must fight back against medical tyranny that dangerously violates Americans’ individual freedoms.”

This rhetoric also mirrors how Republican Govs. Ron DeSantis of Florida and Greg Abbott of Texas have spoken about banning mask mandates in schools and barring businesses from requiring proof of vaccination. The vaccines are not criticized, and instead the issue is framed as one of personal freedom against government overreach, with Dr. Anthony Fauci being the quintessential example of a public health expert these governors warn against trusting.

Biden specifically sought to counter this during his speech on Thursday.

“This is not about freedom or personal choice,” Biden said. “It’s about protecting yourself and those around you, the people you work with, the people you care about, the people you love. My job as president is to protect all Americans.”

The president has also embraced the threat of lawsuits from Republican lawmakers, with several GOP governors eyeing legal challenges to his executive order much in the way states like Texas did throughout the Obama administration.

A fundraising blast from the Republican National Committee on Friday asked for donations to help fund lawsuits against Biden's policy, even though the donations can also be used for general campaign and ad spending.

Sam Stein@samstein

RNC raising money off its pledge to sue over the Biden vaccine/testing requirements announced yesterday

Help us SUE Biden to end his vaccine mandate > Inbox x

TRUMP ALERT (via GOP) Unsubscribe
to me

4:23 PM (1 minute ago)



STOP THE VACCINE MANDATE

WE WILL SUE BIDEN TO END HIS AUTHORITARIAN VACCINE MANDATE.

We're calling on EVERY Patriot to step up and help fund our efforts. Are you going to join us or will you sit on the sidelines?

There has NEVER been a more critical time to contribute, we are at risk of losing our freedoms like never before. We hope you'll join us on the right side of history!

[Please contribute ANY AMOUNT RIGHT NOW to help fund the GOP efforts to stop Joe Biden's unconstitutional vaccine mandate. >>](#)

While Trump still commands significant influence in the GOP, the immediacy of the backlash to Biden's executive order on Thursday and the degree to which pundits and politicians had similar reactions showed that there doesn't always need to be a Trump-like figure leading the charge when it comes to treating the pandemic as a culture war issue.

Regardless of the majority of the public that supports vaccine mandates — over 50% to 60%, depending on the venue, according to Gallup — the vocal anti-vaccine base leads the right's response and the key figures follow, not the other way around.

Source:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/republican-reaction-biden-vaccine-mandate-revolt-disobedience-lawsuits-fox-news-2021-9?op=1>

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