

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR REINBOLD

Introduced: 2/22/22

Referred: Transportation, State Affairs

A RESOLUTION

1 **Urging the Canadian government to honor individual medical and religious rights by**
2 **granting passage through Canada without discrimination to all United States citizens,**
3 **including truck drivers, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, for the purpose of**
4 **delivering goods to the United States.**

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 **WHEREAS** the people of Alaska depend on the route through Canada for travel to
7 the contiguous states of the United States and to transport goods through Canada; and

8 **WHEREAS** the legislature supports avoiding any disruption of the supply chain,
9 which is critical to the economy and welfare of the state and the welfare of its people; and

10 **WHEREAS** because many citizens, including truck drivers who deliver food and
11 goods, will legally decline the COVID-19 vaccine for a variety of reasons, the COVID-19
12 vaccine mandate will increase the food insecurity for citizens of this state, as well as of the
13 citizens of the other states in the United States and the provinces of Canada; will increase
14 costs; and will jeopardize the jobs and well-being of individuals and families; and

15 **WHEREAS** the COVID-19 vaccine mandate will cause a decrease in the number of

1 employed truck drivers at a time when a shortage of qualified and experienced truck drivers
2 already exists, and many commercial truck drivers will choose to stop driving because of the
3 COVID-19 vaccine mandate; and

4 **WHEREAS** a decrease in the number of employed truck drivers would cause a severe
5 interruption in the supply chain affecting the flow of necessities, including food, medical
6 supplies, and other critical items; and

7 **WHEREAS** the COVID-19 vaccine may be contraindicated for a variety of reasons,
8 including medical conditions; and

9 **WHEREAS** the long-term side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are unknown; and

10 **WHEREAS** constitutional religious liberties must be honored, and, under state law,
11 an individual may decline a vaccination for any reason, including religious beliefs; and

12 **WHEREAS** the Canadian and United States governments are urged to recognize the
13 value of natural immunity and that, based on clinical studies, many Canadians and United
14 States citizens now likely have superior immunity to COVID-19 because those citizens have
15 recovered from COVID-19; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in 1942, in An Exchange of Notes Between Canada and the United
17 States Recording an Agreement Providing for the Construction of a Military Highway to
18 Alaska, the Canadian government and United States government agreed that "at the
19 conclusion of the war that part of the highway which lies in Canada shall become in all
20 respects an integral part of the Canadian highway system, subject to the understanding that
21 there shall at no time be imposed any discriminatory conditions in relation to the use of the
22 road as between Canadian and United States civilian traffic";

23 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the Canadian government
24 to honor individual medical and religious rights by granting passage through Canada without
25 discrimination to all United States citizens, including truck drivers, regardless of COVID-19
26 vaccination status, for the purpose of delivering goods to the United States.

27 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President
28 of the United States; the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the
29 Honourable Kirsten Hillman, Ambassador of Canada to the United States; the Honourable
30 Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada; the Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister
31 of Transport, Canada; the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations,

1 Canada; the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs,
2 Infrastructure and Communities, Canada; the Honourable Jean Gagnon, Commissioner for
3 Canada, International Boundary Commission; the Honourable Scott Streiner, Chief Executive
4 Officer and Chair, Canadian Transportation Agency; the Honourable Sandy Silver, Premier of
5 Yukon, Canada; the Honourable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia, Canada; the
6 Honourable Jason Kenney, Premier of Alberta, Canada; the Honorable Pete Buttigieg, United
7 States Secretary of Transportation; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable
8 Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of
9 the Alaska delegation in Congress.