



Washington State Senate

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Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
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Governor Inslee:

I am not sure your intention was to include community volunteers in your mandate requiring vaccination status of the Trump vaccine. State agencies, specifically WSDOT & Ecology are preventing people from giving their time to serve their communities unless they provide a declaration form verifying their compliance with the proclamation

I was recently contacted by a local official who informed me that volunteers from a nearby Rotary Club were trying to organize an *Earth Day* road clean-up along State Road 410 through the Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway Program. However, discussions with the Department revealed that every single volunteer would have to provide a signed medical affidavit declaring their vaccination status. Those unwilling to provide such an affidavit to the Department could not participate. The Department's stated rationale was based on your emergency proclamation.

Was it really your intention to keep service organization volunteers from participating in an *outdoor* roadway clean-up effort with this requirement?

Last year you signed the *Welcome to Washington Act* to clean up our highways. It is apparent that that WSDOT and the Dept. of Ecology cannot keep up with the vast amounts of trash showing up along our roadways. Garbage, waste, and drug paraphernalia is piling up left by trespassers camped in public right of ways whose own vaccination status never comes into question. Yet, your policy is excluding community volunteers who care about the environment and simply want to clean-up the mess.

While the overwhelming majority of states have lifted COVID emergency orders, it makes no sense for Washington to impose restrictions on dispersed, outdoor volunteer cleanups. Having volunteers willing to help preserve and beautify their communities would be a boon to the safety and cleanliness of Washington State. We should be encouraging the practice, not actively trying to prevent it based on a volunteer's declared vaccination status.

While we can continue to disagree on the broader emergency powers argument, please take the very small step and remove this restriction and allow these volunteers to Make Washington Beautiful Again.

Sincerely,

Senator Phil Fortunato
31st Legislative District