Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2021

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper,

We write to express our concerns regarding recent discussions of creating a so-called "vaccine passport" mandate in North Carolina. We believe this policy is a vast overreach that will have far reaching implications on our citizens' constitutional liberties. We ask that you refrain from instituting a vaccine passport program in North Carolina.

Under President Trump's leadership, Operation Warp Speed removed regulatory burdens and paved the way for the fastest vaccine creation process in history. Our nation is rapidly moving toward herd immunity as millions of Americans have now received the vaccine or maintain COVID-19 antibodies after recovering from the virus. Government policies should reflect these positive developments, including moving to fully reopen our churches, schools, and businesses for all Americans.

However, mandating a vaccine passport will signal to North Carolinians that their right to participate in the economic life of our state and nation is in jeopardy. There is no circumstance under which government may infringe upon Americans' constitutional liberties, not even a global pandemic. Any facilitation from the federal or state government in providing or encouraging vaccine passports will politicize vaccination efforts.

A vaccine passport program would create unnecessary controversy that could impact vaccine distribution. Currently, discussions have failed to address the preservation of individual liberty and conscience protections, resulting in further divisiveness. Vaccine creation and distribution is intended to bolster the health and resilience of our communities while bringing people back together. Instead, a vaccine passport would only weaponize these efforts for political gain.

North Carolina is one of the fastest growing states due in large part to policies that allow freedom and opportunity to flourish. Mandating or issuing vaccine passports at the state government level, or even allowing third parties to do so, would discourage entry and contradict the very essence of our state's values. We ask that you reject any government-led effort to mandate vaccine passports and oppose efforts by third parties that would require these documents.

Sincerely,

Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress

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