



## Washington State Legislature

August 25, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

Constituents are asking important questions about the COVID-19 vaccine religious exemption you made available under Proclamation 21-14.1. We wish to convey accurate information about your proclamation in response to common questions that arose after many versions of religious-exemption forms began circulating among the public and media. It is critical for legislators to know how the state and other Washington employers are expected to proceed in reviewing applications for vaccine exemptions from individuals who have a right to refuse vaccination based on their religion. Therefore, we respectfully seek your response to these questions about Proclamation 21-14.1:

- (1) When an employer reviews an application for a religious exemption, what criteria must the employer apply to determine whether the application will be granted or denied?
- (2) Will each employer subject to Proclamation 21-14.1 be required to use the same exemption forms?
- (3) Will the same criteria be applied to all employees who apply for a religious exemption, or will different classes of employees be subject to different criteria?
- (4) Will employers attempt to evaluate the nature or tenets of an applicant's religion asserted for the purpose of applying for a religious exemption?
- (5) Will employers compare the religious claims of an exemption applicant against the religious claims of other exemption applicants?

(6) Will employers use information about applicants' past medical decisions to determine whether an employee is eligible for a religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine?

(7) What kind of information about an applicant's religion will an employer seek to obtain if the employer determines more information is necessary to evaluate the exemption request?

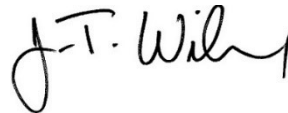
(8) Will an employer require statements from leaders of organized religions in order to grant exemptions to applicants who claim to be adherents of a particular religion?

(9) If an exemption applicant has received medicine from a health care provider as an adult, will the applicant be disqualified from receiving a religious exemption for the COVID-19 vaccine?

Sincerely,



Senator John Braun  
Senate Republican Leader



Representative J.T. Wilcox  
House Republican Leader