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Statements by Elected Leon County State Officials on the Governor's Latest State Government Overreach

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Earlier today, the governor imposed a \$3.57 million fine on Leon County Government for their decision to keep County employees safe by requiring them to receive immunization shots against COVID-19, unless a valid medical or religious exemption is presented. Leon County elected State officials released the following statements.

“We can only move past this pandemic by ensuring everyone eligible is vaccinated to keep Floridians safe. This is an overreach of state government and the Governor has gone too far. Local governments cannot just sit on their hands and should have the ability to issue emergency standards. Vaccines are an important tool that is helping us control this pandemic. Leon County Government should not be penalized for an effective way to respond in the best interest of our citizens and workforce,” said **Representative Ramon Alexander (D-Tallahassee)**.

“I share the concern of Leon County Government in protecting our public employees who have been on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic. While cases in Leon have started to decrease, the pandemic is not over and it is important that our Florida counties have the authority to protect their citizens as they see fit. I anticipate the courts will be deciding this and will support Leon County's fight against this overreach of state government,” said **Representative Allison Tant (D-Tallahassee)**.

“Florida has lost more than 56,000 lives to COVID-19 and the Governor is spending his time punishing counties working to keep their citizens safe. Unbelievable! We don't need the State bullying our communities or private businesses who are simply trying to serve the people and get on the other side of this pandemic. It's going to take all of us standing together to make this happen,” said **Senator Loranne Ausley (D-Tallahassee)**.

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