

Rep. Thiesfeldt: Request for clarification from SSM Health regarding their vaccination policy

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State Representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, released the following statement after submitting questions to the President of SSM Health and SSM's Director of Government Relations for Wisconsin regarding their COVID-19 vaccination policy.

"It has been a priority of mine to protect the individual liberty of the people of Wisconsin, especially their medical decisions, which are being threatened by Governor Evers and healthcare employers. Earlier this legislative session I authored legislation that would have [prohibited the government](#) and [employers](#) from mandating the COVID-19 vaccine and will continue to remind Governor Evers that he possesses no sole authority to mandate any vaccination."

Representative Thiesfeldt on August 12 [requested](#) SSM Health's employee vaccination policy information from Katherine Vergos, the President of St. Agnes Hospital. This simple request for information has yet to be delivered. Therefore, Representative Thiesfeldt along with Representatives Michael Schraa and Timothy Ramthun have submitted a [letter](#) asking for specific answers to a list of COVID-19 related questions. The letter and questions are based upon concerns that have been raised by SSM

Health

employees and constituents of our districts.

“The policy enacted by SSM Health has led many employees to quit their jobs and many more are soon likely to be terminated from their positions. These actions have led to additional shortages of desperately needed healthcare workers at clinics and hospitals across Wisconsin. It was just a year ago that nurses and doctors were being universally praised for safely working through the pandemic with no vaccine available. Now, SSM Health is threatening termination for some of those same employees who only ask to make their own healthcare decisions. I urge SSM Health to respond to our inquiry with answers as soon as possible.”