



October 28, 2021

To White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator Jeff Zients:

At the current pace, millions of people around the world will not get access to the vaccine for many years. This is not only a human rights and racial justice crisis, it's also a threat to the safety and well-being of those already vaccinated. As long as the pandemic continues, the virus will continue to destabilize the global economy while mutating into potentially devastating variants.

To put an end to the pandemic, the administration must act to implement common sense strategies for rapidly expanding vaccine access: (1) lower the legal barriers to increased vaccine production with a comprehensive TRIPS waiver, (2) share the requisite technical 'know-how' needed for production, and (3) fund vaccine manufacturing hubs around the world. Public health experts agree that these policies, taken together, would effectively address the root causes of the ongoing pandemic and minimize any further damage to the lives and livelihoods of Americans and all people around the world.

The administration has announced that the US will support the TRIPS waiver, but it must take a more active role negotiating on behalf of the waiver at the WTO and using all diplomatic means to draw support from its remaining opponents. The White House must also reexamine its decision to not share the technical recipe and process information that would be needed for expanded production and use existing power under the Defense Production Act to ensure we transfer all COVID-19 technologies including diagnostics and therapeutics. Additionally the administration must support congressional efforts to appropriate \$35 billion to fund global manufacturing hubs, including but not limited to the \$ 2 billion included in the proposed reconciliation budget process.

As we mobilize our communities and organizations to fight to free the vaccine, we believe that your role as the COVID-19 response coordinator for the administration positions you to take the crucial actions needed to win these policies. We ask that you stand with us publicly in support of these proposals that have drawn widespread support from public health experts and that you meet with us to ensure accountability in the months ahead. Together, we believe we can overcome the political impasse and successfully put an end to the pandemic.

To that end we ask that you publicly state your support for this policy agenda and meet with our coalition to ensure this agenda is enacted. You can follow up for a meeting with Justice is Global Deputy Director Ben Levenson blevenson@justiceisglobal.org, (973) 879-5142.

Sincerely,

The Coalition to End the Pandemic Everywhere

Signed Public Statement:

I, Jeffrey Zients in my capacity as White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator formally endorse the plan to end the pandemic. I will do everything in my power to compel the administer and American allies to implement common sense strategies for rapidly expanding vaccine access:

- (1) lower the legal barriers to increased vaccine production with a comprehensive TRIPS waiver,
- (2) use the Defense Production Act share the requisite technical 'know-how' needed for production
- (3) Appropriate \$35 billion, including but not limited \$2 billion included in the budget reconciliation to fund vaccine manufacturing hubs around the world.

Signature: _____

Date: _____