

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
JUDICIARY
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

July 28, 2022

The Honorable Rochelle Walensky, M.D.
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
395 E St SW,
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Director Walensky,

I am writing regarding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) vaccination policy. The U.S. Open, one of the world's premier tennis tournaments, recently confirmed that Novak Djokovic wouldn't be able to participate, due to the Biden Administration's vaccination policy.¹ While the "U.S. Open does not have a vaccination mandate in place for players," the tournament will "respect the U.S. government's position regarding travel into the country for unvaccinated non-U.S. citizens."² The Djokovic news underscores the problematic CDC policy that one "must be fully vaccinated with the primary series of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine to travel to the United States by plane if you are a non-U.S. citizen."³

Americans are ready to move beyond the pandemic and its endless list of rules, but the Biden Administration wants a forever pandemic. By barring Novak Djokovic from competing in the U.S. Open, the Biden Administration is making it clear that they would like to impose a "forever pandemic." However, the hypocrisy in this power grab is clear. Illegal immigrants can cross the border without proof of vaccinations⁴ or negative COVID tests,⁵ but Djokovic cannot fly to the United States and compete in the U.S. Open.

¹<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/us-open-confirms-novak-djokovic-cant-play-unless-s-vaccinated-covid-rcna39069>

²https://www.usopen.org/en_US/news/articles/2022-07-20/mens_and_womens_singles_entry_lists_released_for_the_2022_us_open.html?promo=rss

³<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/noncitizens-US-air-travel.html#:~:text=COVID%2D19%20Home-Non%2DU.S.%20Citizen%2C%20Non%2DU.S.%20Immigrants%3A%20Travel%20to,and%20from%20the%20United%20States&text=As%20of%2012%3A01AM%20ET,before%20they%20board%20their%20flight>

⁴ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/legal-travelers-us-mexico-border-vaccine-mandate-illegal-immigrants>

⁵ <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/migrants-covid-19-tests-domestic-flights-dhs-oig>

The Biden Administration mandates are not the desires of the American people. I am writing to ask that you allow Novak Djokovic to play in the upcoming U.S. Open and remove all remaining COVID-19 regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marsha Blackburn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator