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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WILL AINSWORTH URGES IVEY TO LIFT MASK MANDATE

Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth on Wednesday called upon Gov. Kay Ivey to follow the lead of Texas, Mississippi, and other states and rescind her statewide mask mandate as COVID-19 cases continue a dramatic decline both nationally and across Alabama.

Ainsworth has consistently opposed the statewide mandate since its implementation, and he has urged Ivey to allow it to expire each time it has come up for renewal.

His statement reads:

“I urge Gov. Kay Ivey to immediately lift the statewide mask mandate and allow citizens and local officials the liberty to make the decisions that best fit their circumstances.

Since its implementation last July, I have held the position that a statewide mask mandate is an overstep that infringes upon the property rights of business owners and the ability of individuals to make their own health decisions.

In addition, it imposes a one-size-fits-all, big-government requirement on cities, towns, counties, and other areas that have low-to-moderate infection rates and little need for such a mandate.

Rescinding the blanket mask order and lifting capacity restrictions and other limitations will also send the loud, clear, and unmistakable message that Alabama is once again fully open for business.

Individuals who wish to continue wearing masks may do so, and business owners certainly have the right to require their employees and customers to wear face coverings, if they wish. Local governments may pass their own requirements, as well.

Until we reach adequate vaccination and immunity levels, I encourage everyone to continue social distancing, practicing good hygiene, and making smart decisions that affect their own health and the health of those around them.

But we can do all of these things without a Big Brother-style government mandate looming over us.”