

News Release

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Poll: Business Leaders Support Administration’s Vaccination Mandate, But Anticipate Major Challenges in Implementation

New York, NY, September 28, 2021...As the President rolls out federal mandates requiring companies ensure their workforces are fully vaccinated, a survey of CEOs and Directors, conducted by the Committee for Economic Development of The Conference Board (CED), reveals mixed feelings from corporate America.

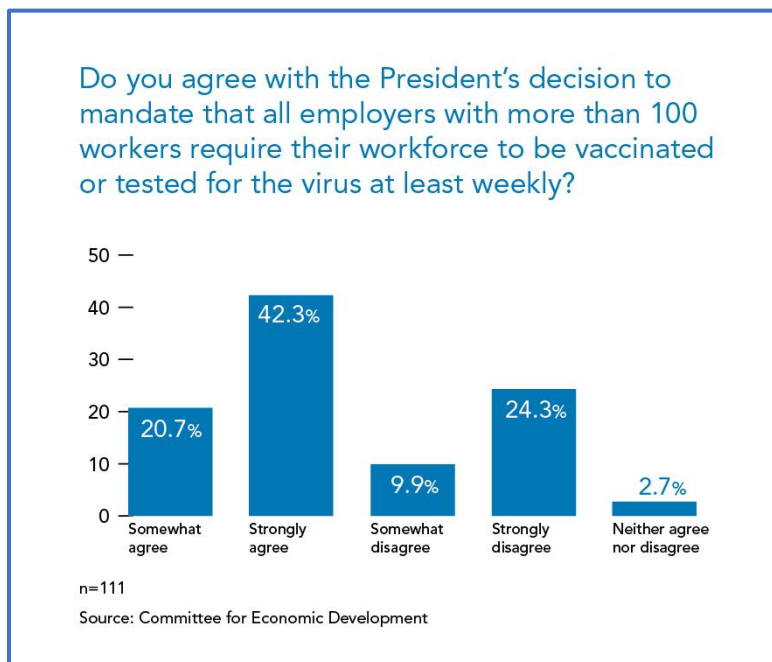
While nearly two-thirds of the surveyed business leaders support the President’s decision, more than half are concerned about their ability to implement the mandate at their companies.

CED’s survey results reveal an additional red flag: Roughly 30 percent of respondents believe the decision has negatively impacted their employees and the overall company culture.

The survey gauged more than 100 CEOs and Board Directors, approximately 90 percent of whom are at companies with more than \$1 billion in revenue. All respondents will be impacted by the federal mandates.

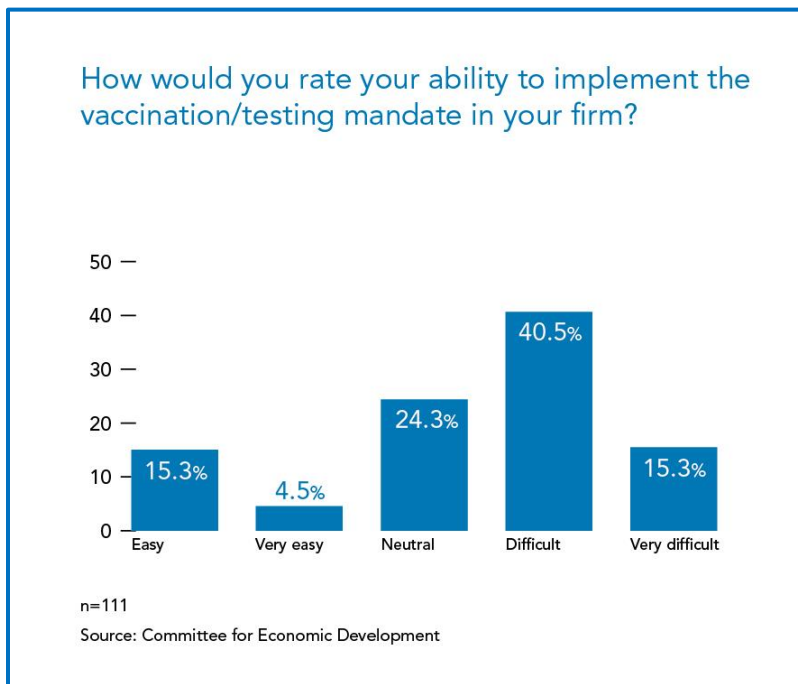
Dr. Lori Esposito Murray, the President of CED, noted: “While our survey results reveal that the President has significant backing from the business community, the Administration should proceed with caution given the intensity of the opposition felt by a quarter of the business leaders and the expected difficulties in implementation felt much more broadly. Unless the OSHA vaccine guidelines put in place are clear and actually achieve the objective, the end result may be more division in the workplace instead of more vaccinations.”

Key findings from the survey include:



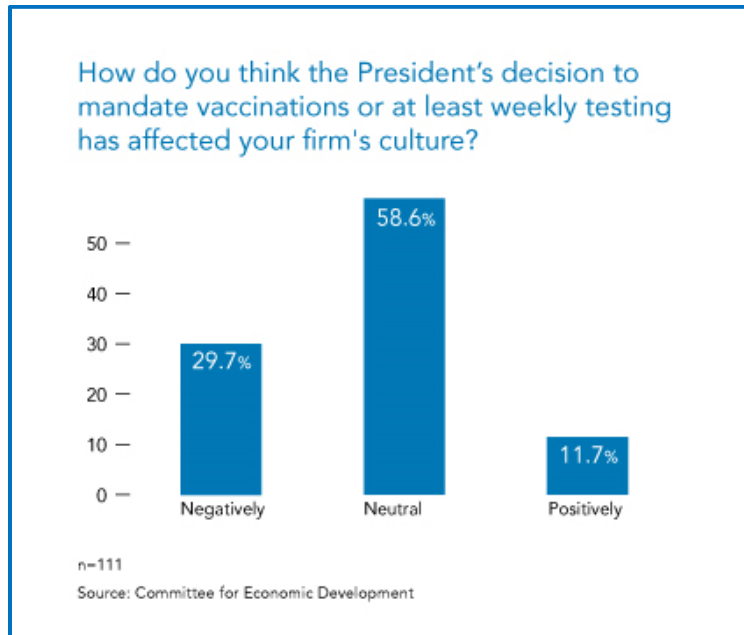
SUPPORT: The majority of surveyed business leaders agree with the President’s decision.

- Nearly two-thirds of respondents support the new vaccination and testing requirements.
- About a quarter of leaders strongly disagree with the decision.
 - ***Do you agree with the President’s decision to mandate that all employers with more than 100 workers require their workforce to be vaccinated or tested for the virus at least weekly?***
 - **Somewhat Agree:** 20.7 percent
 - **Strongly Agree:** 42.3 percent
 - **Somewhat Disagree:** 9.9 percent
 - **Strongly Disagree:** 24.3 percent
 - **Neither Agree nor Disagree:** 2.7 percent



IMPLEMENTATION: Despite significant support, more than half of these business leaders believe actual implementation of the mandates will be difficult.

- More than half of respondents believe it will be difficult (40.5 percent) or very difficult (15.3 percent) to successfully implement the new testing or vaccination mandate within their company. Comparatively, roughly 20 percent feel it will be an easy lift.
 - ***How would you rate your ability to implement the vaccination/testing mandate in your firm?***
 - **Easy:** 15.3 percent
 - **Very Easy:** 4.5 percent
 - **Neutral:** 24.3 percent
 - **Difficult:** 40.5 percent
 - **Very Difficult:** 15.3 percent



COMPANY CULTURE: A third of respondents say the vaccination announcement has hurt company culture.

- Roughly 30 percent of respondents believe the decision has negatively impacted their company's overall culture.
- More than half feel that it has not impacted their organization's overall culture.
 - **How do you think the President's decision to mandate vaccinations or at least weekly testing has affected your firm's culture?**
 - **Negatively:** 29.7 percent
 - **Neutral:** 58.6 percent
 - **Positively:** 11.7 percent

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About CED

The Committee for Economic Development of The Conference Board (CED) is the nonprofit, nonpartisan, business-led public policy center that delivers well-researched analysis and reasoned solutions in the nation's interest. CED Trustees are chief executive officers and key executives of leading US companies who bring their unique experience to address today's pressing policy issues. Collectively they represent 30+ industries, over a trillion dollars in revenue, and over 4 million employees. www.ced.org

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