Dr. Ashish Jha
Coronavirus Response Coordinator
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

June 7, 2022

Dear Dr. Jha:

We strongly urge you to repeal the federal inbound testing requirement for vaccinated air travelers to the United States. This requirement makes little sense considering that nearly all other sectors of the U.S. economy are operating without a testing requirement. Stronger immunity provided by vaccinations, boosters and prior infections, as well as effective treatments to prevent the worst outcomes of COVID-19, have enabled Americans to safely return to work, schools and public activities—all without the need for a testing requirement. Given the slow economic recovery of cities across America—and considering the abundance of public health measures we have at our disposal—we strongly encourage you to immediately remove the inbound testing requirement for vaccinated air travelers.

American cities are still struggling to regain international visitors after more than two years of pandemic-related restrictions. In 2021, international visitation was a staggering 78% below pre-pandemic levels. Our constituents and our businesses suffered greatly from this steep decline in international travel spending, and they cannot fully recover until this vital sector of the U.S. economy rebounds. A new survey of vaccinated international travelers in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan and India found that the pre-departure testing requirement is a deterrent to travel. More than half of international travelers (54%) said the added uncertainty of having to cancel a trip due to U.S. pre-departure testing requirements would significantly impact their likelihood to visit the U.S.; and a large majority of adults surveyed (71%) agreed that they prioritize traveling to destinations without cumbersome entry requirements. The pre-departure testing requirement is also a deterrent to vaccinated Americans traveling abroad, as many fear being unable to return to the U.S. Many foreign governments with similar infection, vaccination and hospitalization rates—including the United Kingdom, Germany and Canada—have already eliminated pre-departure testing requirements for vaccinated travelers.

The time has come for the United States to do the same. The current policy is neither wise nor effective. It's time to repeal these requirements and to return power back to our people. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mayor Francis Suarez
City of Miami, FL

Mayor Jim Ross
Arlington, TX

Mayor Scott Singer
Boca Raton, FL

Mayor Larry Milton
Branson, MO

Mayor Michael Udine
Broward County, FL

Mayor Vi Lyles
Charlotte, NC

Mayor John Tecklenburg
Charleston, SC

Mayor John Suthers
Colorado Springs, CO

Mayor Vince Lago
Coral Gables, FL

Mayor Michael B. Hancock
Denver, CO

Mayor Elaine O'Neal
Durham, NC

Mayor Kevin Anderson
Fort Myers, FL

Mayor Mattie Parker
Fort Worth, TX

Mayor Jerry Weiers
Glendale, AZ

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss
Grand Rapids, MI

Mayor Pat Moeller
Hamilton, OH

Mayor Sylvester Turner
Houston, TX

Mayor Colten Johnson
Kanab, UT

Mayor Ken Miyagishima
Las Cruces, NM

Mayor Greg Fischer
Louisville, KY

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava
Miami-Dade County, FL

Mayor Nicole Condrey
Middletown, OH

Mayor John Cooper
Nashville, TN

Mayor Eric Adams
New York, NY

Mayor Robert Restaino
Niagara Falls, NY

Mayor Jerry Demings
Orange County, FL

Mayor Buddy Dyer
Orlando, FL

Mayor William Snavely
Oxford, OH

Mayor Mark Sheldon
Panama City Beach, FL

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Portland, OR

Mayor Jaqueline Izzo
Rome, NY

Mayor Erin Mendenhall
Salt Lake City, UT

Mayor London N. Breed
San Francisco, CA

Mayor David Ortega
Scottsdale, AZ

Mayor Nadine Woodward
Spokane, WA

Mayor Jane Castor
Tampa, FL

Mayor Robert Palmieri
Utica, NY