

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS REMOVE DR. JOSEPH LADAPO, M.D., Ph.D. AS FLORIDA'S SURGEON GENERAL**

**WHEREAS**, according to the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) website the first-ever State Surgeon General was established in 2007 to spearhead the efforts of FDOH, thereby designating a health officer to oversee all matters of public health. The Surgeon General's role is to be the state's leading advocate for wellness and disease prevention. On September 21, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis, appointed Joseph Ladapo, MD, PhD as Florida's new Surgeon General and the very next day Dr. Ladapo issued an emergency rule giving parents sole discretion over whether their children wear masks in school. Additionally, asymptomatic children who are exposed to Covid and have no symptoms no longer have to stay home or quarantine. His predecessor, who was not permitted to effectively combat COVID, oversaw the enormous spread of COVID in Florida and the second highest death rate in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, although Dr. Ladapo may be a well-educated physician who is board certified in Internal Medicine and has an MD and PhD in Health Policy from Harvard, he does not have a background in public health and has never been in charge of so much as a department at his previous position as an associate professor at UCLA Geffen School of Medicine. Dr. Ladapo has downplayed the urgency of Florida citizens being vaccinated against COVID-19 and says too much emphasis has been placed on COVID vaccines. His first executive order forbade masks. Dr. Ladapo is closely associated with the controversial fringe group called America's Frontline Doctors, which has promoted bogus "cures" for Covid including ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control has said the only way to force COVID-19 to recede is through herd immunity wherein 70-90% of the population has to be vaccinated against the disease: and

**WHEREAS**, children under the age of 12 cannot become vaccinated as of October 1, 2021 so they attend schools where masks are not required and vaccines cannot be obtained.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senior Caucus and the Executive Committee of the Palm Beach County Democratic Party stand in support of removing Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo and replacing him with a physician who has experience in infectious diseases and supports the use of FDA approved COVID-19 vaccines as well as mask wearing.**

Phil Levitt, Legislative Committee Chair; Ellen Baker, Vice Chair; Amelia Rose, Maria Torres-Lopez, Allen Robbins, Charles Bantel, Cameron Stempel, Drew Martin, Ira Raab, Tricia Mischler, Ted Parsons, Joel Schleifer, Ben Cooper, Carole Silverstein, Reesa Levy, Senior Caucus Chair, Arthur Jacoby, Mindy Koch, Stephen Levy, Ann Ferris

**Passed by the Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Committee  
October 7, 2021**