



CITY OF
FAYETTEVILLE
ARKANSAS

DELIVERED VIA E-MAIL

July 29, 2021

Hon. Asa Hutchinson
Governor of Arkansas
Arkansas State Capitol
Room 250
Little Rock, AR 72201

Hon. Jimmy Hickey, Jr.
President Pro Tempore
Arkansas Senate
3216 East 35th Street
Texarkana, AR. 71854

Hon. Matthew Shepard
Speaker
Arkansas House of Representatives
200 N. Jefferson Avenue
El Dorado, AR 71730

Gentlemen,

We are writing to you today regarding Act 1002, which limits the ability of local governments to adequately protect their citizens from public health emergencies. Unfortunately, our state's low vaccination rate combined with the highly transmissible variant is resulting in yet another public health crisis throughout our region. We need every public health tool available in order to get this next surge under control, save lives, and, ultimately, return to a normal state of living.

As of today, our area's hospitals have 130 Covid patients. The patients we are caring for now are more acutely ill and are requiring more intensive care than previous. During our previous winter surge, our area healthcare systems were caring for 120-140 Covid patients. Currently, the number of patients hospitalized with Covid is doubling every 14 days. Clearly, we are expecting to surpass last winter's surge. In addition, our hospitals are caring for more non-Covid patients who are also critically ill. The strain that this is putting on our health care