

# Auburn COVID vaccine mandate protesters line Toomer's Corner: 'We are losing freedoms'



*Toomer's Drugs seen from the main entrance to the Auburn University campus. (AL.com File | Julie Bennett)*

More than 100 demonstrators on Tuesday lined Toomer's Corner to voice their anger toward Auburn University's decision to abide by President Biden's vaccine mandate for federal contractors and require university employees to get COVID-19 shots by Dec. 8.

Holding signs that read "Educate Don't Mandate," "My Body My Choice" and "Oppose Tyranny No Vax Mandates" and shouting "Save Our Staff" and "Freedom," the crowd said [Auburn's decision, announced Friday](#), violates their rights, the Opelika-Auburn News [reported](#).

One protester held a sign referencing the 40-year-long Tuskegee syphilis experiment that started in the 1930s and involved withholding syphilis treatment from Black men in order to study the disease:

*The "Save Our Staff" protest at Auburn Univ.*

*A teachable moment: The "Tuskegee Project" deliberately withheld treatment from hundreds of ppl with syphilis; dozens died because they were intentionally left untreated.*

*Jaw dropped at the comparison. #history #AcademicChatter [pic.twitter.com/ax9INmeW28](https://pic.twitter.com/ax9INmeW28)  
— Benjamin Tyler Arnberg (@drbenjamintyler) [October 26, 2021](#)*

In its announcement, the university said it had to comply with Biden's order as a federal contractor, pointing out that it could lose out on federal funding if its employees do not get vaccinated.

Bradley Andrew, a first-year physics graduate student and a teaching assistant at the university, told the [Auburn Plainsman](#) that mandating vaccination violates his Constitutional rights.

**[See also: 'Sick and tired of being walked on': Alabama federal contractors walk off job over vaccine mandate](#)**

“I think that that is the scariest, most dangerous fact about this, that we are being forced, and we are losing freedoms, and that’s why I’m here,” Andrew said.

An Auburn University spokeswoman could not immediately be reached for a response to the demonstration.

The protest at Toomer’s Corner was organized by a group calling itself “@Noforcedvaxedauburn” and had as many as 150 participants at its peak, according to the News.

“This mandate from President Biden is ... unconstitutional and the Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the right or the ability to mandate (to) people do this vaccine is constitutionally inconsistent with other health mandates we’ve had in the past,” Harrison MacDonald, a 19-year-old Auburn resident and president of the local student chapter of the conservative nonprofit Turning Point USA, told the News.