

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 15, 2022

The Honorable Christine E. Wormuth
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0101

Dear Secretary Wormuth,

We request that you immediately rescind the Army policy that prohibits unvaccinated soldiers, including those with *approved* medical or religious COVID-19 vaccine exemptions, from completing official travel, including Temporary Duty (TDY), Permanent Change of Station (PCS), no cost PCS, low-cost PCS, and intra-post transfers, without approval from the Under Secretary of the Army (USA).

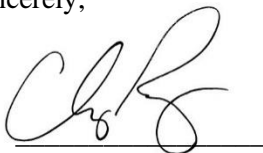
COVID-19 vaccine mandates are dangerous and wrong enough, but treating unvaccinated soldiers differently than vaccinated soldiers – even after receiving an exemption – is unfounded and puts our military readiness at risk. This new directive will unfairly deny soldiers – who simply followed the tenets of their deeply held religious beliefs or guidance of their doctor – vital career opportunities, effectively relegating them as second-class soldiers. Additionally, this policy punishes the thousands of other soldiers with pending exemptions requests which they are rightfully allowed to seek.

Putting aside the issue of the COVID-19 vaccine mandate itself – especially after the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) updated guidance removed the distinction between unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals exposed to COVID-19, and that the COVID-19 vaccine does not prevent transmission or contraction of COVID-19 – once the Army grants a permanent religious or medical exemption, there is no basis to treat vaccinated and unvaccinated soldiers differently. This political maneuvering will have impacts on our country's military readiness and the trust and morale of our premier fighting force.

Policies like these can contribute to significant recruiting difficulty, compounding the Army's struggle to meet recruiting objectives for FY22. If the Army continues to refuse to recognize the strength of natural immunity, while enforcing a COVID-19 vaccine mandate, and applying these shockingly aggressive measures targeting unvaccinated soldiers, we risk damaging our country's military readiness for years to come.

We request that you immediately remove this unfair burden from unvaccinated soldiers and reverse this harmful guidance. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



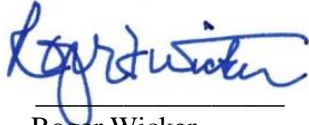
Chip Roy
Member of Congress



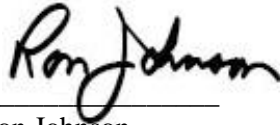
Mike S. Lee
United States Senator



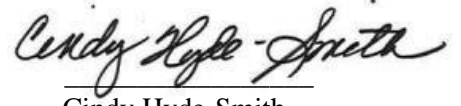
Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Roger Wicker
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



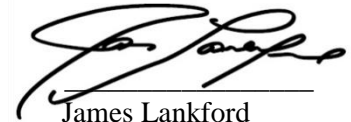
Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Marco Rubio
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



James Lankford
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



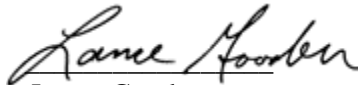
Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



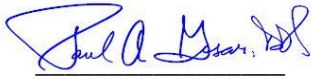
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



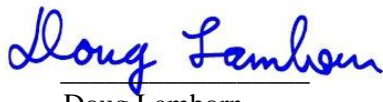
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



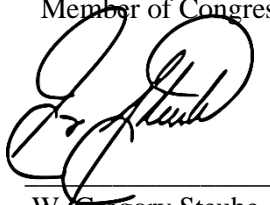
Brian Mast
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Dan Crenshaw
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Doug Lamborn
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W. Gregory Steube
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Ralph Norman
Member of Congress




Warren Davidson
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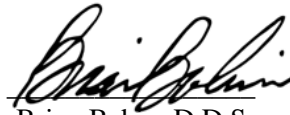


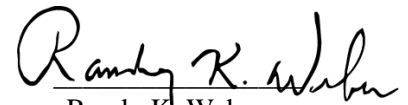
Bob Good
Member of Congress

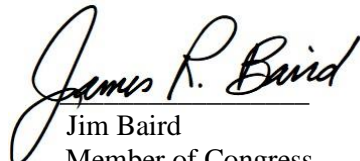


Mark E. Green, M.D.
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Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

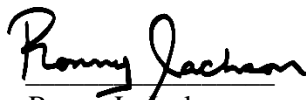

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
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Randy K. Weber
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Jim Baird
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Andy Biggs
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Mo Brooks
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Scott Perry
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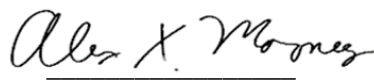

Darrell Issa
Member of Congress

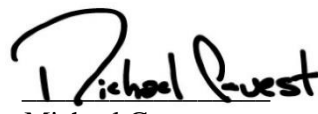

Ben Cline
Member of Congress

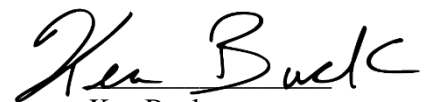

Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress

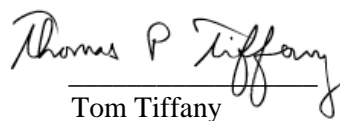

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

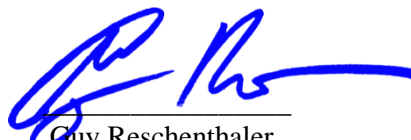

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

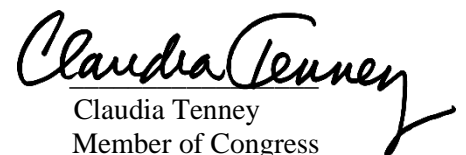

Alex X. Mooney
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Michael Guest
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Ken Buck
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Tom Tiffany
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Guy Reschenthaler
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Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Diana Harshbarger

Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop

Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Cc: Chief of Staff of the Army