

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

December 8, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin III
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense, Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Austin:

Congress is currently completing its work on the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (FY23 NDAA), which includes the rescission of the destructive COVID-19 vaccination memorandum. With passage of this repeal, I urge you to adhere to what is an unmistakably clear Congressional intent and immediately cease any current pending actions against service members regarding your directive. The demoralization of our service members must end immediately.

Thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and guardsmen – and their families – have been negatively impacted by this harmful and divisive policy. There has also been generational damage done, the full extent of which is not yet known.

For example, the Army was only able to meet half of its recruitment goal for FY22. This readiness crisis was self-inflicted, which also means it can be corrected. You can begin to repair the damage that has been done by reinstating those who wish to return to service after being forced out because of refusing the vaccine.

I urge you, at this crossroads, to choose duty, honor, and country over divisive, partisan politics. Our national security depends on it.

Sincerely,



DARRELL ISSA
Member of Congress