

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2022

General Lloyd James Austin III
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1300

Secretary Austin,

I write to again bring your attention to concerns regarding the unfair treatment of military personnel and request a response to my letter dated, August 23, 2022.

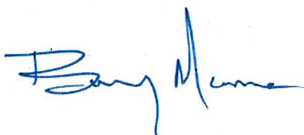
The United States government stands as a beacon for freedom and individual liberty for the entire world. Despite this, the Department of Defense continues to impose harsher restrictions on military personnel than recommended CDC guidelines for the general population. Our fighting men and women are disproportionately younger, healthier, and significantly less at risk from COVID-19 than the general population. Further, service members under 40 without comorbidities have nearly no chance of dying from coronavirus, and vaccinations have negligible effects on the newest strains of COVID-19.

Mr. Secretary, the military has failed to meet its recruitment goals, with the Army only meeting 52% of its FY22 recruitment goal and nearly 20,000 service members face discharge relating to the vaccine. As of this fall, the Army cut its projected FY23 end strength by 12,000 soldiers. The pandemic has been declared over, but the military continues to uphold a standard that is affecting force readiness. This is particularly troubling given the CDC's guidance that makes little distinction between the vaccinated and unvaccinated.

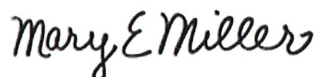
To ensure the continued readiness of our nation's military and to reflect the most up to date guidelines released by the CDC, I again request that the military reverse its COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all military personnel and civilian contractors. I also request that those who were unfairly forced to separate from the military be given the option to be reinstated with back pay.

Thank you for your immediate attention and response to these concerns.

Sincerely,



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress