



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1403

February 23, 2023

The Honorable Gabe Camarillo  
Under Secretary of the Army  
U.S. Department of the Army  
1600 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-1600

Dear Mr. Under Secretary:

As you are aware, in December 2022, President Biden signed into law H.R. 7776, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23 NDAA). Section 525 of the FY23 NDAA required the Secretary of Defense to rescind the Secretary of Defense's COVID-19 vaccine mandate for all members of the Armed Forces.

However, we have been made aware that Army Directive 2022-02, issued by Secretary of the Army Christine E. Wormuth on January 31, 2022, remains in effect. That directive states: "Individuals seeking accession into the Army and those Soldiers currently serving must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19."

Reports to our offices indicate that in response to Army Directive 2022-02, the United States Military Academy West Point is mandating that applicants have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Before the bipartisan passage of the FY23 NDAA, lawmakers from both parties expressed their dissatisfaction with the Biden administration's vaccine mandate. The former Chairman and current Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee Adam Smith suggested that the DoD's mandate may be outdated, and current Chairman Mike Rogers expressed concern over the mandate's effect on readiness. Alarm over our military's readiness is sensible given that 2022 was the single worst year for military recruiting since the transition to an all-volunteer force nearly 50 years ago. The Army missed its 2022 recruitment goal by 25% and was forced to cut its total forces by 10,000.

Given Congress's bipartisan decision to rescind the DoD's vaccine mandate, please respond to the following questions in writing before your February 28<sup>th</sup> appearance at the Subcommittee on Military Personnel's hearing on COVID-19's impact on DoD and its servicemembers.

1. Does the Army require that individuals seeking accession to the Army are vaccinated against COVID-19 before enlisting?
2. Does the Army require Soldiers currently serving to be vaccinated against COVID-19?
3. Does Secretary Wormuth plan on rescinding Army Directive 2022-02?
4. Did Secretary Wormuth intend to direct Service Academies to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine for cadets?

Sincerely,



---

Chairman Jim Banks  
Subcommittee on Military Personnel



---

Chairman Mike Waltz  
Subcommittee on Military Readiness

Cc:  
The Honorable Christine Wormuth  
Secretary of the Army  
U.S. Department of the Army