

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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November 3, 2021

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

Hon. Robin Carnahan
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Hon. Shalanda Young
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Secretary Austin, Administrator Carnahan and Acting Director Young:

We write to request documents and information about how the Biden Administration is implementing Executive Order (E.O.) 14042. This E.O. requires employees of federal contractors to be vaccinated against COVID-19 infection by December 8, 2021; or lose their jobs and all the benefits associated with them.¹ The E.O. offers very few exemptions. It also does not provide options to be tested regularly. President Biden is forcing these workers to accept Administration-required vaccines or risk losing their entire livelihoods—jobs, pensions, and healthcare plans.

As the Biden Administration hastily implements E.O. 14042, it is refusing to be flexible or accommodating with the federal contractor workforce. Further, we understand the Administration is preparing to double down on the extreme requirements applicable to federal contractors and apply them to federal grant recipients (grantees), who originally were exempt from the requirements of E.O. 14042.² This expansion would mean the Administration's vaccine crackdown would cover police departments, fire departments, emergency medical systems, and other vital local organizations all across the country. It is, in essence, another route to fulfill the Democrat's promise to defund the police.

¹ See Executive Order 14042, 86 Fed. Reg. 50985 (Sept. 14, 2021); Safer Federal Workforce Task Force, *COVID-19 Workplace Safety: Guidance for Federal Contractors and Subcontractors*, at 5 (Sept. 24, 2021).

² See E.O. 14042 para. 5(b)(1), 86 Fed. Reg. at 50987.

Government contractors and grantees are supporting the U.S. government's mission across the Nation. They should be celebrated for staying on the job and protecting public safety throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these individuals have laid their lives on the line for years and are on the verge of vesting in pensions that will provide for their families' futures in reward for their sustained years of critical service. Yet, the Biden Administration appears poised to pull the rug out from under their futures, all because of an authoritarian mandate—be vaccinated or face being fired.

This is not leadership—this is autocracy. With households still recovering from the economic shutdown, it is not prudent to require employees of federal contractors and federal grantees to be vaccinated or lose their jobs. On the contrary, worker attrition due to vaccine refusal could endanger the adequacy of police, fire and other public safety and community services. Federal services such as defense, border security, and other critical sectors supported by federal contractors could be affected. Making matters worse, rigid insistence on—and even expansion of—the draconian policies of E.O. 14042 could further entrench the Nation's supply-chain crisis, as the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors emphasized to President Biden last week.³

To help Committee Republicans understand the Biden Administration's plans to implement President Biden's vaccine mandate for employees of federal contractors or expand it to employees of federal grantees, we request that you produce the following documents and information in your organization's custody as soon as possible but no later than November 10, 2021, for the time period January 20, 2021, to the date of your production, unless otherwise noted below.

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to potentially expanding E.O. 14042 to federal grant recipients and their employees.
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to the rationale for the prior decision to exclude federal grantees from the scope of E.O. 14042.
3. All documents and communications referring or relating to any decision to evaluate or not evaluate the potential impacts of E.O. 14042 on the fulfillment of federal agency, contractor or grantee missions.
4. All documents and communications referring or relating to any decision to evaluate or not evaluate the potential impacts of the expansion of E.O. 14042 to federal grantees on employees of police departments, fire departments, other public health and safety agencies, community service organizations, or other grantee organizations, including potential losses of employment, pension benefits or healthcare benefits.

³ Letter from Eric Hoplin, President & CEO, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors, to President Joseph R. Biden (October 20, 2021), online at <https://tt0dl1563d22haik02ol9k9a-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Ltr-to-Biden-re-EO-14042-10.20.21.pdf>.

5. All documents and communications referring or relating to any decision to evaluate the potential impacts of E.O. 14042 on supply chains in the United States.
6. All documents and communications referring or relating to any decision to evaluate or not evaluate whether the policies contained in E.O. 14042 could be relaxed in light of the declines in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the United States since September 9, 2021.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

Sincerely,



James Comer
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Reform



Jody Hice
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Government
Operations



Glenn S. Grothman
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security



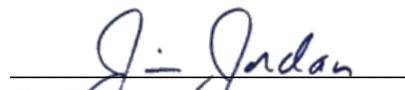
Michael Clouthier
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Economic and
Consumer Policy



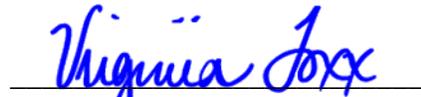
Ralph Norman
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Subcommittee on Environment



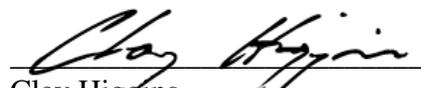
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Civil Liberties

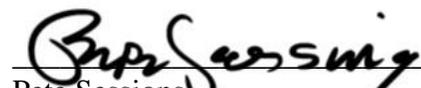

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Member of Congress


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

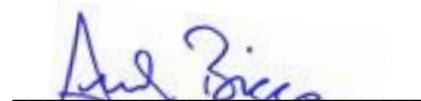

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Bob Gibbs
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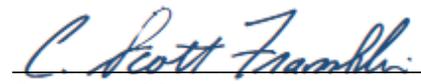

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Member of Congress


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Member of Congress


Byron Donalds
Member of Congress

Secretary Austin, Administrator Carnahan, Acting Director Young

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cc: The Honorable Carolyn Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

The Honorable Stephen F. Lynch, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman
Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

The Honorable Ro Khanna, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment

The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Chairman
Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties