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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

ELIZABETH L. KING, STAFF DIRECTOR
JOHN D. WASON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

Accordingly, in your role as Secretary of Defense, and in conjunction with the Service Secretaries and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Combatant Commanders, I ask that you provide me the following data and information pertaining to the armed forces, broken down by each Military Service and Combatant Command, and including the Joint Staff:

- The total cost associated with discharging the service members, civilian personnel and contractors who fail to comply with the vaccination mandate according to the current prescribed deadlines. Additionally, the cost associated with replacing these vacancies with new hires and any planning conducted for recruitment or retention strategies to offset anticipated discharges, particularly in mission-critical areas.
- The anticipated impacts to mission readiness, i.e. loss in flight training hours, loss in aircraft and shipyard repair maintenance hours, etc. if the Department pursues the discharging of service members, civilian personnel and contractors who fail to comply with the vaccination mandate according to the current specified deadlines.
- The anticipated cost to contractors caused by failure to comply with the vaccination mandate and expected requests for equitable adjustment. Additionally, an analysis of the long term effects on the defense industrial base, particularly suppliers and subcontractors, resulting from loss of key workforce personnel.
- An analysis of the potential impacts to the workforce both uniformed and civilian if the Department were to retain those who choose not to receive the COVID vaccination. Additionally, an independent Department of Defense analysis of the potential merits of earned immunity and an assessment of the risk posed to those immunized with one of the FDA approved vaccines.
- The processes for service members, civilian personnel and contractors seeking vaccination exemptions and the criteria by which individual cases are being adjudicated. Additionally, the process by which an individual may pursue an appeal to the initial ruling.
- An analysis of the of service members, civilian personnel and contractors on track to comply with the vaccination mandate deadlines as currently prescribed. Additionally, a study to determine the potential risk posed to those vaccinated and unvaccinated should the Department forgo discharging those who elect not comply with the mandate.
- A classified briefing for Senate Armed Services Committee members on the anticipated ability of the Department to execute operational plans within a year of the Department's dismissal of unvaccinated personnel, and any tabletop exercises or analysis planned to study such negative operational consequences.

Although the actual costs associated with each of these undertakings is certainly cause for concern, the opportunity cost they have and continue to visit on the force, its readiness, and morale is nothing short of devastating—particularly in light of current threats.

I look forward to receiving your written response and your views on these important matters not later than **November 1, 2021**.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member