

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 7900**  
**OFFERED BY MR. LAMBORN OF COLORADO**

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_ . SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE PROCE-**  
2 **DURE FOR A RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO THE**  
3 **MANDATE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE**  
4 **THAT MEMBERS OF CERTAIN ARMED FORCES**  
5 **RECEIVE VACCINATIONS AGAINST COVID-19.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
7 gress that—

8 (1) members of the covered Armed Forces with  
9 deeply held religious beliefs should not be involun-  
10 tarily separated from the covered Armed Forces  
11 solely on the basis of the refusal of such member to  
12 receive a vaccination against COVID–19 that vio-  
13 lates their religious beliefs;

14 (2) the current process for a member of a cov-  
15 ered Armed Force seeking a religious exemption al-  
16 lows the member to meet with the chaplain assigned  
17 to their unit or command to evaluate their religious  
18 beliefs is not sufficient to ensure that a sincerely

1 held religious belief is upheld in consideration for a  
2 religious exemption;

3 (3) the process for a member of a covered  
4 Armed Force seeking a religious exemption to the  
5 Secretary of Defense’s mandated vaccination against  
6 COVID–19 should be determined by primarily reli-  
7 gious authorities within a member’s chain of com-  
8 mand;

9 (4) the Chief of Chaplains should replace the  
10 Surgeon General as the decision authority for mem-  
11 bers of a covered Armed Force seeking an appeal of  
12 a denied religious exemption;

13 (5) at their application, a covered individual  
14 should be reevaluated by the Chief of Chaplains of  
15 the military department concerned; and

16 (6) no member of a covered Armed Force  
17 should be subject to adverse action solely on the  
18 basis that such member was granted an exemption.

19 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) The term “adverse action” includes involun-  
21 tary separation, demotion, denial of promotion, dis-  
22 cipline, or discrimination.

23 (2) The term “covered Armed Force” means  
24 the following:

25 (A) The Army.

1 (B) The Navy.

2 (C) The Marine Corps.

3 (D) The Air Force.

4 (E) The Space Force.

5 (3) The term “covered individual” means a  
6 member of a covered Armed Force who was denied  
7 a religious exemption to the mandate of the Sec-  
8 retary of Defense that such members receive such  
9 vaccinations.

