

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

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<https://coronavirus.house.gov>

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Muriel Bowser  
Mayor of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20004

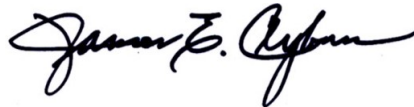
Dear Mayor Bowser:

Enclosed are post-hearing questions that have been directed to you and submitted to the official record for the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis on “A View from the States, Territories, and District: Governors Respond to the Omicron Variant,” held on Thursday, January 20, 2022.

In order to ensure a complete hearing record, please return your written responses to the Select Subcommittee by Thursday, February 17, 2022. Please respond to each question in full and include the name of the Member. Your response should be addressed to the Select Subcommittee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Yusra Abdelmeguid at Yusra.Abdelmeguid2@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Select Subcommittee staff at (202) 225-4400.

Sincerely,



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James E. Clyburn  
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Steve Scalise, Ranking Member

## Questions for The Honorable Muriel Bowser

Mayor, Washington, D.C.

January 20, 2022, Hearing: “A View from the States, Territories, and District: Governors Respond to the Omicron Variant”

### Questions from Ranking Member Steve Scalise

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On January 15, 2022, your order requiring vaccination against COVID-19 to enter restaurants, bars, nightclubs, indoor entertainment venues, gyms and recreational venues, and indoor meeting venues went into effect.

Your order says the purpose of this mandate is to “mitigate the spread of COVID-19” and that “vaccine requirements have resulted in more persons who are vaccine hesitant deciding to get vaccinated.”

First, according to Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the available vaccines for COVID-19 “can’t...anymore...prevent transmission.” Further, the CDC states it “expects that anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, *even if they are vaccinated...*” (emphasis added). As the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas recently opined regarding President Biden’s federal employee vaccine mandate, “While vaccines are undoubtedly the best way to avoid serious illness from COVID-19, there is no reason to believe that the public interest cannot be served via less restrictive measures than [a] mandate.” Your stated purpose of “mitigate[ing] the spread of COVID-19” is proven irrelevant by the science as articulated by Director Walensky and the CDC.

Second, when you announced the order on December 22, 2021; 473,057 D.C. residents had completed a full course of vaccination. By the time your order took effect 484,791 D.C. residents had completed a full course of vaccination. That is a 2 percent increase. This is the same percent growth seen in Arizona, Texas, Tennessee, and Florida during that same time period and all in states that have banned vaccine mandates. Again, this statistic nullifies your rationale. Specifically, your stated purpose of vaccine mandates “result[ing] in more persons who are vaccine hesitant deciding to get vaccinated” is proven statistically insignificant.

1. In light of these facts, do you plan to follow the science and immediately rescind your vaccine mandate?
2. If not, are you performing any type of data collection or tracking to compare the experience in D.C. to other locations that do not have such a mandate?
3. What metrics, if any, will you use to determine when the vaccination requirement should be rescinded?