

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

Majority (202) 225-5074  
Minority (202) 225-5051

## MEMORANDUM

July 24, 2023

**To: Members, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic**

**From: Select Subcommittee Staff**

**Re: Hearing on “Because I Said So: Examining the Science and Impact of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates”**

On **Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 2:00 PM ET in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic will hold a hearing titled “Because I Said So: Examining the Science and Impact of COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates.”

### **I. BACKGROUND:**

In December 2020, President-Elect Biden stated he would not make vaccines mandatory. However, the promise was soon broken when Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin announced the first federal COVID-19 vaccine mandate on August 24, 2021, one day after the FDA’s full approval of the Pfizer vaccine. Next, on September 9, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order (E.O.) 14043, which required federal employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by November 8, 2021, or risk removal or termination from their federal employment. On November 4, 2021, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a rule which required all employers with 100 or more employees to impose COVID-19 vaccine mandates, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for all healthcare workers who worked at facilities participating in Medicare and Medicaid. Finally, on November 30, 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a rule which required COVID-19 vaccination for all Head Start staff, contractors and volunteers.

Although all five of the major federal COVID-19 vaccine mandates have been rescinded, overturned, or otherwise ended, their consequences will live on for many years to come. The COVID-19 vaccine mandates caused people to lose their livelihoods, hollowed out our healthcare and education workforces, reduced our military readiness and hurt military recruitment, caused vaccine hesitancy, reduced trust in public health, trampled individual freedoms, deepened political divisions, and interfered in the patient-physician relationship.

**II. HEARING PURPOSE:**

This hearing will evaluate the necessity and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine mandates imposed by the federal government. This hearing will also examine the many unintended consequences of COVID-19 vaccine mandates.

**III. WITNESSES:**

**Ms. Danielle Runyan**

Senior Counsel

First Liberty

**Dr. Kevin Bardosh**

Affiliate Assistant Professor

University of Washington

**Ms. Allison Williams**

Reporter

Fox Sports

*Additional witnesses to be announced.*