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4TH DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

RANKING MEMBER, COMMITTEE ON  
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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
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**Congress of the United States**  
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October 12, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I write to you today to respectfully ask that you consider amending your Executive Order (EO) 14043, titled, "Requiring Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination for Federal Employees." Federal civilian employees in my district who have provided long and faithful service to the United States government are concerned that your EO will force them to abandon that service to their fellow Americans.

Though I share your desire to ensure that the federal workforce is provided a safe and healthy work environment, requiring COVID-19 vaccination of all federal employees with only a narrow exemption available to them for religious or medical reasons – the granting of which is dependent upon obtuse factors that federal workers have no confidence in and don't fully understand – is a step too far. To my knowledge, federal civilian employees are not mandated to take any other vaccine as a condition of employment, and it is wrong to spring this mandate upon them with only weeks to comply and with the threat of termination if they make the personal health care decision not to comply.

Many Americans have admired your long history as a moderate, consensus builder during your time in the U.S. Senate and as Vice President of the United States, and I hope to appeal to that sense of fairness. There is a commonsense, middle ground way for you to protect the federal workforce without scare tactics and burdensome mandates. I ask that you amend your EO to create an additional avenue for federal workers to comply with the spirit of your order by providing an alternative to the mandate. You have already embraced one type of alternative with your directive to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that it should allow weekly COVID-19 testing for large employers with 100 or more employees. It makes perfect sense for you to allow federal employees to avail themselves of an alternative arrangement as well.

As a gentleman who has spent decades in government, I know you understand how critical it is for our nation to support those Americans who dedicate their lives to public service. Forcing their service to be cut short simply because government leaders were too intransigent to make a

modest change will harm the American people at large and possibly throw thousands of hard-working men and women onto the unemployment line. I implore you to do everything in your power, including amending the EO to provide an alternative COVID-19 testing regime, to prevent that from happening.

Though we are from different political parties, I know we share a desire to do what is right for all Americans. Please know that I am willing to be your partner in ensuring that unvaccinated federal civilian employees are not discriminated against for exercising their right to make their own personal health care choices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Westerman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress