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United States Senate

COMMITTEES
ARMED SERVICES

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

October 27, 2021

Senator Jack Reed
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
Russell Senate Office Building
Room 228
Washington D.C. 20510

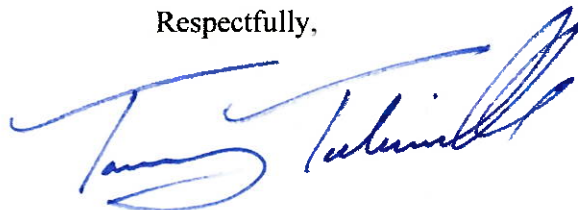
Chairman Reed,

Thousands of small contractors for the Department of Defense face an excruciating choice in the coming weeks: fire employees who choose not to take the relatively new COVID vaccine or face the loss of contracts from the Pentagon. This untenable position, playing out across the country, threatens our national security. Small business remains the backbone of American enterprise and the ingenuity machine in our competition with China. We cannot afford to slow them down.

As such, I respectfully request a near-term hearing on the subject of vaccine compliance in the defense supply chain. I believe it would be especially helpful to hear from both expert witnesses within the Department of Defense on the current state of vaccine compliance and small business owners who have employees reluctant to take the new vaccine.

Given the pressing nature of the mandate, the sooner our committee takes steps to hear out the American people on this issue, the better.

Respectfully,



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator