

# Congress of the United States

## Washington, DC 20515

November 29, 2022

Vice Admiral Sean S. Buck  
Superintendent  
United States Naval Academy  
121 Blake Road  
Annapolis, Maryland 21402

Dear Vice Admiral Buck:

We write in response to your October 18, 2022 reply to Representative W. Gregory Steube's letter of October 11, 2022. Thank you for prompt reply. We have several follow up questions regarding your explanation that you have no authority or ability to influence the approval of Midshipmen religious exemption requests relating to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. Commandant of Midshipmen and their Judge Advocate General Officer (JAG) are denying Midshipmen from graduating due to their refusal to take the COVID-19 vaccination on religious grounds and are held as a delayed graduate until the injunction preventing the separation of Naval personnel is lifted.

1. How many COVID-19 vaccine religious exemption requests were made by United States Naval Academy (USNA) Midshipmen?
2. How many COVID-19 vaccine religious exemptions were granted to USNA Midshipmen?
3. In your October 18 letter, you state that you have no authority to grant COVID-19 vaccine religious exemptions to Midshipmen. Could have your September 2, 2021 order mandating COVID-19 vaccines been drafted or structured in such a way that you would have had authority over the exemption process?
4. Do you, or any USNA personnel, have authority to grant any type of religious exemptions to Midshipmen, including those not related to COVID-19?
5. Do you, or any USNA personnel, have authority to grant any type of medical exemptions to Midshipmen, including both those relating to COVID-19 and those not related to COVID-19?
6. As USNA Superintendent, have you ever intervened formally or informally to influence the granting or denial of any type of religious exemption to a Midshipmen?
7. Has any USNA Superintendent ever intervened formally or informally to influence the granting or denial of any type of religious exemption to a Midshipmen?
8. What information, instructions, or data have you received supporting the contention that denying commissions to otherwise qualified Midshipmen based on their COVID-19 vaccination status enhances military readiness?
9. What is the criteria for granting or denying "graduate not commission" (GNC) requests?

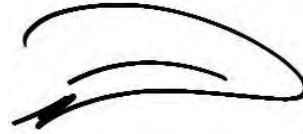
10. May Midshipmen who are granted GNC requests receive a commission at a later date, and if so, what does the process entail?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



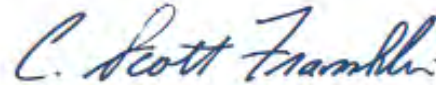
Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



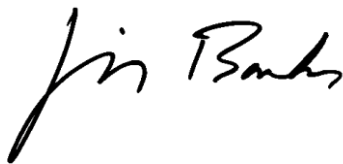
Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



Jim Banks  
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress

CC: Captain Andrew House, JAGC, USN