

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5860

To exempt essential workers from Federal COVID–19 vaccine mandates.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MAST, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. GUEST, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. CLINE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To exempt essential workers from Federal COVID–19
vaccine mandates.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Keeping Our COVID–
5 19 Heroes Employed Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTION FROM VACCINE MANDATES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any requirement imposed by an
3 entity described in subsection (b) that individuals be vac-
4 cinated against COVID–19 shall provide for an exemption
5 from such requirement for all essential workers.

6 (b) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity described in
7 this subsection is any of the following:

8 (1) The Federal Government.

9 (2) A public or private Federal contractor.

10 (3) A private entity receiving Federal funds.

11 (4) A public entity receiving funding under the
12 Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supple-
13 mental Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–
14 123), the Families First Coronavirus Response Act
15 (Public Law 116–127), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief,
16 and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116–136),
17 the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care
18 Enhancement Act (Public Law 116–139), division M
19 or N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021
20 (Public Law 116–260), or the American Rescue
21 Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2), as a condi-
22 tion for retaining such funds or receiving future dis-
23 bursements of such funds.

24 (c) ESSENTIAL WORKERS DEFINED.—For purposes
25 of this section, the term “essential worker” means an indi-
26 vidual—

1 (1) whom a relevant State, Indian Tribe, or ter-
2 ritory deemed essential during the response to the
3 COVID–19 pandemic; or

4 (2) who was exempt from any restrictions in re-
5 sponse to the COVID–19 pandemic imposed by a
6 relevant State, Indian Tribe, or territory.

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