

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3236

To prohibit the Federal Government from establishing, implementing, or enforcing any Federal requirement for members of the Armed Forces to wear a face mask while in uniform when not directly related to their duties.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2025

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To prohibit the Federal Government from establishing, implementing, or enforcing any Federal requirement for members of the Armed Forces to wear a face mask while in uniform when not directly related to their duties.

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 “Undoing and Nul-
5 lifying Mandates so our Armed Services Keep Succeeding
6 Act” or the “UNMASK Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On May 5, 2023, the World Health Organi-
2 zation officially declared an end to the global Public
3 Health Emergency for COVID–19, which led to the
4 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
5 other public health agencies shifting guidance away
6 from universal mask usage.

7 (2) With the widespread availability of vaccines
8 and other therapeutic treatments, and the reduction
9 in severe outcomes from COVID–19, masks are no
10 longer justified for members of the Armed Forces.

11 (3) Maintaining face coverings in the Depart-
12 ment of Defense absent a declared national emer-
13 gency risks undermining the professionalism and in-
14 tegrity of the uniform, adversely impacts service-
15 member morale, and detracts from the core mission
16 of the Armed Forces: to fight and win the Nation’s
17 wars.

18 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF REQUIRE-**
19 **MENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
20 **FORCES TO WEAR MASKS.**

21 (a) PROHIBITION.—Subject to subsection (b) and
22 notwithstanding any other provision of law, no officer or
23 employee of the Federal Government may establish, imple-
24 ment, or enforce any requirement for members of the

1 Armed Forces to wear a face mask while serving on active
2 duty.

3 (b) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary of Defense may re-
4 quire members of the Armed Forces whose duties include
5 activities that traditionally involve wearing personal pro-
6 tective equipment or other face masks for operational or
7 safety reasons to wear such equipment, including an ap-
8 propriate face mask, while performing such duties.

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