

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4304

To prohibit unfair treatment of cadets and midshipmen who refuse to get the COVID–19 vaccine, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2022

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To prohibit unfair treatment of cadets and midshipmen who refuse to get the COVID–19 vaccine, and for other purposes.

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 “Defending Freedom
5 of Conscience for Cadets and Midshipmen Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered
2 individual” means a cadet or midshipman at a Fed-
3 eral service academy.

4 (2) FEDERAL SERVICE ACADEMY.—The term
5 “Federal service academy” means the following:

6 (A) The United States Military Academy,
7 West Point, New York.

8 (B) The United States Naval Academy,
9 Annapolis, Maryland.

10 (C) The United States Air Force Academy,
11 Colorado Springs, Colorado.

12 (D) The United States Coast Guard Acad-
13 emy, New London, Connecticut.

14 (E) The United States Merchant Marine
15 Academy, Kings Point, New York.

16 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON VACCINE REQUIREMENT FOR**
17 **GRADUATION FROM FEDERAL SERVICE**
18 **ACADEMIES.**

19 A covered individual may not be required to be vac-
20 cinated for COVID–19 as a condition for graduation from
21 a Federal service academy nor dismissed from a Federal
22 service academy as a result of refusing to be so vaccinated.

1 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON ENFORCEMENT OF REPAYMENT**
2 **PROVISIONS FOR REFUSAL TO RECEIVE VAC-**
3 **CINE.**

4 A covered individual who is prohibited from fulfilling
5 his or her service agreement due to that individual's deci-
6 sion not to be vaccinated for COVID–19 may not be sub-
7 jected to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) or
8 373 of title 37, United States Code, or to debt repayment
9 collections provided for under chapter 176 of title 28,
10 United States Code, pursuant to section 7448, 8459, or
11 9448 of title 10, United States Code, section 1925 of title
12 14, United States Code, or section 51306 of title 46,
13 United States Code, as the case may be.

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