

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3079

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 26, 2021

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. MARSHALL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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”.

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

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

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

3 (1) The Federal Government.

4 (2) A public or private Federal contractor.

5 (3) A private entity receiving Federal funds.

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

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

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

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

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