



June 1, 2022

The Honorable Christopher Smith
4th Congressional District of New Jersey
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith,

On behalf of the 2.3 million members of AMAC – the Association of Mature American Citizens, including over 4,700 residing in NJ-04, I write to offer our support for H.R. 7570 – “To establish certain protections for individuals involuntarily separated from the Armed Forces solely on the basis of refusing to receive vaccinations against COVID-19.”

Your bill would allow several options for servicemembers discharged from the military for refusing any of the experimental COVID-19 vaccines. The options include characterization of discharge to honorable from another classification, and a protection of retired pay and benefits for those that were eligible but were discharged. In the case of reinstatement to service, there is an added benefit to the military and taxpayers in that those who are reinstated have already received the training they need to function in the military without the additional taxpayer expense of training personnel who have not served.

In that it is honorable to stand up for what is right; in that it is illegal for the Biden administration to require an experimental COVID-19 vaccination for military service; and that servicemembers are under no obligation to follow an illegal order; and that a recent Naval Administrative Board found in support that the order is illegal; it is proper for those who were discharged based on refusing a COVID-19 vaccination to receive an honorable discharge if they choose not to return to military service.

Also, service members eligible for retirement, who were discharged for not receiving a COVID-19 vaccination, earned their retirement regardless of the Biden vaccine mandate. Therefore, there is no cause to deny their earned benefit.

AMAC thanks you, Representative Smith, for your vision and strong leadership in introducing this important legislation that would benefit our brave and deserving military service members. We are pleased to offer our organization’s full support for H.R. 7570.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Carlstrom". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bob Carlstrom
President
AMAC Action