

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2023

General David H. Berger, USMC  
Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
3000 Marine Corps, Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350-3000

Dear General Berger,

We write to express our serious concerns over the unprecedented recruiting challenges your service and the entire Department of Defense is experiencing. Adding to this problem the US Marine Corps dismissed many of its dedicated Marines because of their desire to not receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The Acting Inspector General Sean O'Donnell wrote in a memo last year to the secretary of defense on the COVID-19 exemption process that many of the service members were not even given their due consideration. As you know, the Marine Corps was the most aggressive service in discharging service members as a result the Marine Corps had to change its recruiting goal for Fiscal Year 2022.

Fortunately, under the leadership of Speaker McCarthy, Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, repealed the vaccine mandate. While I thoroughly understand the need for mission readiness, in the low-risk age population of our healthy Marines, as well as the ready availability of therapeutics, this mandate has an essence caused more harm than good.

Our request is quite simple. We request your recruiters explore reaching out to the thousands of Marines who were expelled to investigate as to who could fill positions where their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) expertise is of critical need. We would ask special consideration for those Marines who received re-enlistment bonuses due to a need for their MOS expertise.

As you know, the Marine Corps is now in the process of attempting to recoup these bonuses, so these dismissed Marines face double jeopardy. General Berger, we greatly respect your past extraordinary service in our Corps and implore you to carefully consider this recommendation. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Gregory F. Murphy, M. D.  
Member of Congress



Jennifer A. Kiggans  
Member of Congress



Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



Max Miller  
Member of Congress

Cc: HASC/SASC Military personnel Subcommittee Chairs/Ranking Members