

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4925

To preserve the readiness of the Armed Forces by limiting separations based on COVID–19 vaccination status and continuing pay and benefits for members while religious and health accommodations are pending.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To preserve the readiness of the Armed Forces by limiting separations based on COVID–19 vaccination status and continuing pay and benefits for members while religious and health accommodations are pending.

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 “Preserving the Readiness of our Armed Forces Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO PAY AND BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF**
2 **NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE COMPO-**
3 **NENTS WHILE REQUESTS FOR RELIGIOUS**
4 **AND HEALTH ACCOMMODATIONS ARE PEND-**
5 **ING.**

6 A member of the National Guard or another reserve
7 component of the Armed Forces shall maintain access to
8 pay and benefits while a request of the member for a reli-
9 gious or health accommodation is pending.

10 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION OF**
11 **MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES BASED ON**
12 **COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS.**

13 A member of an active or reserve component of the
14 Armed Forces may not be involuntarily separated from the
15 Armed Forces based solely on the vaccination status of
16 the member with respect to COVID-19 until the Armed
17 Forces have achieved the end strengths authorized under
18 the most recent Act authorizing appropriations for mili-
19 tary activities of the Department of Defense.

○