

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 2, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda D. Young
Acting Director
Office of Management & Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

The Honorable Jason S. Miller
Deputy Director for Management
Office of Management & Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Acting Director Young and Deputy Director Miller:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the plans of certain departments and agencies within the Biden Administration to create databases of Federal employees who have requested religious exemptions to your COVID-19 vaccine mandate. We urge you to protect religious liberty and halt this effort.

As of today's date, we understand that upwards of 19 Federal agencies have announced plans to maintain databases of their employees who have sought religious accommodations for your COVID-19 vaccine requirement for Federal employees. While we understand that these databases are not public facing, we are concerned that the Federal government is keeping this personally identifiable information and, in some cases, only for those Federal employees requesting exemptions to the vaccine mandate on religious grounds. The effects of these databases could represent an unprecedented affront to individuals' First Amendment rights and a troubling overreach by the Federal government.

Therefore, we request responses to the following questions:

1. For what purposes do Federal agencies need the personal information of employees that seek religious exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine?
2. How long do Federal agencies that track this personal information plan to maintain these records?
3. With whom will the information be disseminated? And for what purposes will it be shared?
4. Why will Federal agencies be allowed to circulate their lists between agencies?

We ask that you move quickly to address these issues and reverse the proposed databases.
Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

cc: Robert Etter, Associate Director for Legislative Affairs, Office of Management and Budget