



**One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515**

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

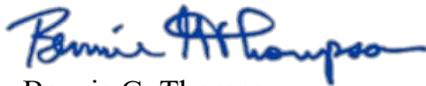
We are encouraged by the initiative taken by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to begin vaccinating essential DHS employees, including Operation Vaccinate Our Workforce (VOW). It is critical that progress continue so all those on the frontlines can continue the vital work of the Department to secure our homeland during the pandemic. It is also imperative that the Department administer the vaccines in an efficient, safe, and equitable manner.

Following up on a February 2, 2021 letter and a February 11, 2021 staff briefing on VOW, the Committee is seeking additional information:

- What is DHS doing to ensure that the 140,000 essential employees identified by the Department are receiving the vaccine as quickly as possible? Please describe how DHS is prioritizing certain positions and locations for vaccinations.
- How is DHS ensuring that front line employees are receiving the vaccine? Which job series are being prioritized?
- During the staff briefing, officials stated that 5,000 employees have been vaccinated, but 20,000 employees have signed-up. What steps is the Department taking to accelerate vaccine distribution to its employees?
- Please explain DHS's role versus the role of the operating components in getting the workforce vaccinated and how DHS is ensuring coordination, communication, and transparency across the entire Department.
- How is DHS informing employees about their ability to sign up and receive the vaccine?
 - How is DHS ensuring that employees are receiving, reviewing, and understanding all the necessary information in order to make informed decisions about their health?
- What percentage of the workforce has been given at least one dose of the vaccine through DHS?

- Is DHS aware of how many DHS employees have received the vaccine through state-specific qualifying conditions?
 - If yes, what is that number, and how is DHS tracking that?
- What is the estimated timeframe of when all DHS personnel that plan to get a vaccine will be successfully vaccinated?
- Is the vaccine required for certain personnel, positions, or locations?
- How is DHS communicating the importance of DHS employees receiving the vaccine?
- How is DHS ensuring that employees in rural and remote locations receive the vaccine without having to travel great distances?
- Has DHS been assured by the White House COVID-19 Response Team that it will receive enough vaccines for the entire workforce?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your written responses and would ask that we receive them no later than March 8, 2021.



Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



John Katko
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security



J. Luis Correa
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight,
Management, and Accountability



Peter Meijer
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