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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4005

June 16, 2021

COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE
ON ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY

Tom Rust, Chief Counsel
House Committee on Ethics
1015 Longworth House Office Building

Dear Mr. Rust:

Please allow this correspondence to serve as my response to your letter dated May 25, 2021 and my appeal of the proposed fines to be issued.

Before addressing the substance of my appeal, I note that this Committee has recently granted appeals of fines related to the metal detector rule for Members of both parties, including Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC). I ask that you consider previous decisions in appeals and grant my request with the same objective decision. However, if we as a nation are truly “following the science” then allow me to lay out why my appeal, and its need to be granted, is justified.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of the Attending Physician (OAP) regularly issued necessary guidance based on CDC recommendations and guidelines. On May 16, 2021, the [CDC issued guidance](#)¹ stating “Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing...”

As you are aware, since February of this year, I have been fully vaccinated by the OAP [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)² (CDC). As a result, upon returning to Washington to fulfil my Constitutional duties as a Representative the week following the CDC’s new guidelines, I voted on the House floor without wearing my mask. I did so because I was following the direction of our nation’s top scientists that fully vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask.

With vaccination rates steadily increasing, and deaths, cases, and hospitalizations steadily decreasing, most American states, cities, localities, territories, and businesses have reopened and resumed regular pre-pandemic activities, as they should. This also includes Washington, DC and the entirety of the Capitol. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives has not followed in their footsteps, nor have they “followed the science” though we are considered “The People’s House.”

I am happy to hear that on June 11th the OAP announced no masks are needed on the floor of the House for fully vaccinated individuals. As you know, this is nearly one month removed from what the science has stated. Therefore, I respectfully request that my appeal be fully granted. If you have any further questions, please contact my office at 202-225-5501 or stop by in-person in 569 Cannon House Office Building.

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>