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National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (H.R. 2670/S.2226) **House and Senate**

Eagle Forum believes U.S. military superiority protects national security and world peace. The left's politicization of the military on issues including abortion, gender, race, and COVID mandates have undermined our military, hurt recruitment, and harmed unit cohesion. As the House and Senate conference on the bill, we encourage Members to include the policies below in the final version of the NDAA to strengthen the military and improve readiness.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Critical Race Theory (CRT)

The Biden administration is encouraging the military to institute extreme policies focused on race. Congress should make clear in the NDAA that recruiting, hiring, and promoting based on race is unfair and against the Constitution. The language of the NDAA should:

- Eliminate offices that promote DEI (in House version).
- Defund CRT and similar teachings in schools under the Department of Defense and in training (in House and Senate versions).
- Prohibit making race-based trainings mandatory for hiring, promotion, or retention of individuals (in House version).

*Neither House nor Senate version contains language to force young women to register for the Selective Service. Eagle Forum thanks the House and Senate for keeping this provision out of the NDAA.

Life

After the *Dobbs* decision, the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin changed decades of federal law with a memo that stated the DoD should pay travel expenses for women who seek abortions outside the state in which they (or their family members) are stationed. The NDAA should include language that will:

- Prohibit the Secretary of Defense from authorizing funds to pay for abortion travel (in House version).

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The left continues to push for taxpayer-funded "gender transition" treatment, including medication and surgery, for military personnel. This undermines troop readiness and creates life-long medical patients. In addition, the DOD has hosted anti-family drag shows on military bases. These actions severely weaken morale as well as military readiness. The NDAA should:

- Prohibit the military health insurances like TRICARE and Exceptional Family Member Program from covering gender transition procedures (in House version).
- Prohibit drag shows and drag queen story hours on military bases (in House version).

Education

Some schools controlled by the Department of Defense are pushing the same "woke" agenda that we see in public schools and must be addressed through the NDAA. The final version should:

- Protect parental rights by allowing access to curriculum (in House version).
- Prohibit any sexually explicit or pornographic materials in DoD school libraries (in House version).
- Eliminate funding for any curriculum that includes teachings of Critical Race Theory or similar ideologies (in House version).

Medical Freedom

During the COVID-19 pandemic, military personnel were forced to vaccinate and wear masks or face discipline or discharge orders. The NDAA needs to:

- Prohibit adverse actions against those who refuse the COVID vaccine or due to vaccination status (in House version).
- Prohibit all mask mandates due to COVID-19 (in House version).
- Review all administrative discharges based on COVID vaccine refusals and consider reinstatement (in House version).
- Perform studies on immune responses to COVID-19 as well as any adverse reactions to the vaccination (in House version).