

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1228

To prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BUCK, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BOST, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. BURLISON, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. CLINE, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ROY, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. CARL, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. HUDSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories.

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 “Combating Racist
5 Training in the Military Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The founding principles of the United
2 States include the belief, enshrined in the Declara-
3 tion of Independence, that “all men are created
4 equal” and “are endowed by their Creator with cer-
5 tain unalienable Rights”.

6 (2) The United States commitment to the equal
7 dignity and natural rights of all mankind is the
8 strongest possible defense against racism and op-
9 pression of all kinds.

10 (3) The mission of the United States Armed
11 Forces is to “support and defend the Constitution of
12 the United States against all enemies, foreign and
13 domestic” and “bear true faith and allegiance to the
14 same”.

15 (4) To carry out this mission, the Armed
16 Forces must train leaders who love the United
17 States, its citizens, and the aforementioned founding
18 principles.

19 (5) Anti-American and racist theories, such as
20 “Critical Race Theory”, teach that the United
21 States is a fundamentally racist Nation, that the
22 Constitution is a fundamentally racist document,
23 and that certain races are fundamentally oppressive
24 or oppressed.

1 (6) Such theories encourage people to judge
2 and treat others differently on the basis of their
3 race, rather than treating them as equal citizens and
4 human beings with equal dignity and protection
5 under the law.

6 (7) Anti-American and racist theories, such as
7 Critical Race Theory, teach students to distrust and
8 even hate their country and fellow citizens.

9 (8) The United States Armed Forces should not
10 promote or otherwise encourage anti-American and
11 racist theories that demoralize and divide its mem-
12 bers while undermining its mission to “bear truth
13 faith and allegiance” to the Constitution.

14 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON PROMOTION OF ANTI-AMERICAN**
15 **AND RACIST THEORIES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Armed Forces
17 and academic institutions operated or controlled by the
18 Department of Defense shall not promote the following
19 anti-American and racist theories:

20 (1) Any race is inherently superior or inferior
21 to any other race.

22 (2) The United States of America is a fun-
23 damentally racist country.

1 (3) The Declaration of Independence or the
2 United States Constitution are fundamentally racist
3 documents.

4 (4) An individual’s moral character or worth is
5 determined by his or her race.

6 (5) An individual, by virtue of his or her race,
7 is inherently racist or oppressive, whether con-
8 sciously or unconsciously.

9 (6) An individual, because of his or her race,
10 bears responsibility for the actions committed by
11 other members of his or her race.

12 (b) PROMOTE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
13 “promote” means the following:

14 (1) Including theories described under sub-
15 section (a) or materials that advocate such theories
16 in curricula, reading lists, seminars, workshops,
17 trainings, or other educational or professional set-
18 tings in a manner that could reasonably give rise to
19 the appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or
20 endorsement.

21 (2) Contracting with, hiring, or otherwise en-
22 gaging speakers, consultants, diversity trainers, and
23 other persons for the purpose of advocating theories
24 described under subsection (a).

1 (3) Compelling members of the Armed Forces
2 to affirm or profess belief in theories described
3 under subsection (a).

4 (4) Segregating members of the Armed Forces
5 or other individuals by race in any setting, including
6 educational and training sessions.

7 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

8 (1) PROTECTED SPEECH NOT RESTRICTED.—
9 Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict
10 the protected speech of members of the Armed
11 Forces or any individual.

12 (2) ACCESS TO MATERIALS FOR THE PURPOSE
13 OF RESEARCH OR INDEPENDENT STUDY.—Nothing
14 in this section shall be construed to prevent individ-
15 uals from accessing materials that advocate theories
16 described under subsection (a) for the purpose of re-
17 search or independent study.

18 (3) CONTEXTUAL EDUCATION.—Nothing in this
19 section shall be construed to prevent the United
20 States Armed Forces and academic institutions op-
21 erated or controlled by the Department of Defense
22 from stating theories described under subsection (a)
23 or assigning materials that advocate such theories
24 for educational purposes in contexts that make clear
25 the United States Armed Forces and Department of

- 1 Defense does not sponsor, approve, or endorse such
- 2 theories or works.

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