

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 556

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LEE, and Mr. LANKFORD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and 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:

8 (1) The founding principles of the United
9 States include the belief, enshrined in the Declara-
10 tion of Independence, that “all men are created

1 equal” and “are endowed by their Creator with cer-
2 tain unalienable Rights”.

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

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

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

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

22 (6) Such theories encourage people to judge
23 and treat others differently on the basis of their
24 race, rather than treating them as equal citizens and

1 human beings with equal dignity and protection
2 under the law.

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

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

11 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON PROMOTION OF ANTI-AMERICAN**
12 **AND RACIST THEORIES.**

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

17 (1) Any race is inherently superior or inferior
18 to any other race.

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

21 (3) The Declaration of Independence or the
22 United States Constitution are fundamentally racist
23 documents.

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

1 (5) An individual, by virtue of his or her race,
 2 is inherently racist or oppressive, whether con-
 3 sciously or unconsciously.

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

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

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

16 (2) Contracting with, hiring, or otherwise en-
 17 gaging speakers, consultants, diversity trainers, and
 18 other persons for the purpose of advocating theories
 19 described under subsection (a).

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

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

1 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

2 (1) PROTECTED SPEECH NOT RESTRICTED.—

3 Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict
4 the protected speech of members of the Armed
5 Forces or any individual.

6 (2) ACCESS TO MATERIALS FOR THE PURPOSE

7 OF RESEARCH OR INDEPENDENT STUDY.—Nothing
8 in this section shall be construed to prevent individ-
9 uals from accessing materials that advocate theories
10 described under subsection (a) for the purpose of re-
11 search or independent study.

12 (3) CONTEXTUAL EDUCATION.—Nothing in this

13 section shall be construed to prevent the United
14 States Armed Forces and academic institutions op-
15 erated or controlled by the Department of Defense
16 from stating theories described under subsection (a)
17 or assigning materials that advocate such theories
18 for educational purposes in contexts that make clear
19 the United States Armed Forces and Department of
20 Defense does not sponsor, approve, or endorse such
21 theories or works.

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