



FROM THE NEWSROOM OF:

HOUSE COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS

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Defense

[Bill Text](#) | [Committee Report](#)

For 2024, the bill provides \$826.2 billion, \$285 million above the request, and \$29.4 billion above last year's level. This legislation:

- **Undermines our democracy** by allowing disinformation campaigns and extremist views to flourish.
- **Cuts vital civilian positions** at a time when the Department is struggling to meet readiness goals.
- **Fails to invest in critical climate change programs** that are necessary to protect our installations.
- **Harms readiness** with divisive provisions that undermine morale and fail to support our service personnel, by:
 - Attacking the LGBTQ+ community with hateful provisions;
 - Preventing service personnel from traveling to seek reproductive health care; and
 - Banning funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

The 2024 funding bill cuts:

- \$1.1 billion in salaries of civilian personnel which will harm oversight of waste, fraud, and abuse and limit the ability of the Department to implement acquisition programs and provide insights for our research and development programs.
- \$714.8 million for climate-related programs which limit the Department's ability to update installations into the 21st century and includes a ban on funding for greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.
- \$114.7 million through a ban on funding for diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

The bill includes partisan riders that have nothing to do with national security:

- Bans funding for travel expenses for reproductive healthcare needs for Service members and their families.
- Includes legislative text which cuts funding for the Deputy Inspector General for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility and any funds that may be used to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out the Executive Orders on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility.
- Bans funding for surgical procedures or hormone therapies for gender-affirming care.
- Bans funding which "promote, host, facilitate, or support events on U.S. military installations or as part of military recruiting programs that violate the Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulation or bring discredit upon the military, such as drag queen story hour for children or the use of drag queens as military recruiters."

- Bans funding for any activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory.
- Bans funding that may be used to classify or facilitate classification of any communications by a U.S. person as “mis, dis, or mal-information” – this would permit the spread of falsehoods without the ability to present the facts.
- Bans security clearances for any signatory to the “Public Statement on the Hunter Biden Emails” dated October 19, 2020; limiting the free speech of those expressing ideas the majority opposes.
- Creates a license for people and organizations to discriminate against LGBTQI+ people under the guise of religious liberty and prevents the federal government from adequately responding– language that limits the diversity of our military.
- Bans the flying of Pride flags on any military installations.

Additional riders were added during House consideration of the bill to:

- Reduce the salary of Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to \$1.
- Ban gender-affirming care for children of Service personnel.
- Ban the funds to require COVID-19 vaccines or masks.
- Ban the use of funds to implement President Biden’s Climate Executive Orders.