

# CMR Challenge for 2024: Renew the Fight Against Wokeism in Our Military

In January 2023, the Center for Military Readiness challenged Congress to oppose, change, or repeal “woke” policies in the military that are weakening morale and readiness, and to support sound priorities that would make our military stronger. Great progress was made in 2023, but many positive ideas proposed in both the House and Senate were not adopted in Conference:

- Policy Analysis: [CMR Challenge to Congress: Let’s Do More in 2024](#)

**Woke policies impose progressive ideology and take them to extremes with enforced compliance, even if it hurts the institution.** In 2024, Congress should renew coordinated efforts to resubmit good ideas that would end wokeism in the military. This is a partial list of good ideas that should be revisited in 2024:

## 1. Meritocracy

- **Codify measures prohibiting racial discrimination and affirming recognition of merit, qualifications, demonstrated performance, fitness, training, and integrity as sole factors in military enlistment, admission, assignment, and promotion policies.**
- Affirm appropriate use of **standardized test scores** in service academy admissions.

## 2. Diversity Industrial Complex

- Affirm **GS-10 pay cap on DEI employees** and contractors and prohibit use of funds for DEI offices and **Chief Diversity Officers** in the DoD and military services.
- **Prohibit racial discrimination** in the military **service academy admissions**.
- Sunset the **Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity & Inclusion (DACODAI)**.

## 3. Critical Race Theory (CRT) and Anti-Extremism Programs

- Eliminate loopholes for “**academic freedom**” to teach CRT in military schools.
- **Define elements of CRT ideology** and affirm **ideological freedom to dissent** from it.
- End divisive, unneeded “**anti-extremism**” programs that increase polarization among troops that should be united in battle.

## 4. Transgender Policies and Privacy

- Resubmit a prohibition on use of DoD funds for **transgender treatments/surgeries**.
- Resubmit a prohibition on use of funds for **Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)** funds for transgender **treatments or surgeries on children**.
- Prohibit mandates for reality-denying “gender markers” and pronouns.
- Propose measures to recognize **biological sex in private living quarters**, athletics, etc.
- Prohibit use of DoD funds for **travel** to states where “**sex-change**” treatments are legal.

## 5. Abortion Travel and Time Off Subsidies

- Resubmit a prohibition of DoD funds for **abortion time off and travel** across state lines.

(Over, please)

## **6. Drag Shows & Sexualized Performances on Military Bases**

- Codify current prohibition on **drag queen** performances, especially in DoD schools.
- Codify prohibitions on “**digital ambassador**” programs and **sexualized performances** that include **exhibitionist drag queen behavior** that demeans military women.

## **7. Protect Parents Rights in Military Schools**

- Eliminate **implementation delays** and other restrictions on **parents’ rights of access** to teachers, curriculum, and library books at **DoD Education Activity (DoDEA)** schools.
- Prohibit **pornographic** and **gender ideology books** from DoD school libraries.

## **8. Sex-Neutral (Identical) Standards for Combat Arms MOSs**

- Affirm the need for **sex-neutral standards** in **Army Combat Fitness Tests (ACFT)** required for occupations and areas of concentration that require extraordinary strength.

## **9. COVID-19 Mandates**

- Resubmit a provision to exempt **cadets and midshipmen** from being required to repay **tuition** if they were denied commissioning if they refused COVID-19 vaccinations.

## **10. Climate Change**

- Resubmit provisions to eliminate “**climate change**” executive orders and to prohibit funds for advisory committees promoting **environmental, social, and governance (ESG)** evaluations.
- Continue to ensure **recharging infrastructures** for non-tactical **electric vehicles (EVs)**.

## **11. Divisive Flags and Symbols**

- Prohibit displays of **unapproved flags** in DoD public spaces, including “**LGBT Pride**” flags and events promoting controversial causes.

## **12. Getting Beyond the Good, the Bad, and the Incomplete**

In 2023 Congress made great progress in addressing wokeism in the military, but many initiatives were not enacted in law. Much more needs to be done to support the troops in this field of public policy. Regardless of the issue, a paramount principle should prevail: ***If there are conflicts between woke social causes or career interests and the needs of the military, the needs of the military must come first.***

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