

Open Letter to Members of the United States Senate
Re: the Nomination of Air Force General Charles Q. Brown, Jr. to be
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
July 10, 2023

America's All-Volunteer Force is in crisis. For several years, all branches of the armed forces have struggled to make recruiting goals, and the Heritage Foundation rated readiness in the various services at the lowest levels seen in decades.

Controversies about divisive critical race theory (CRT) programs, which pit racial groups against each other, plus demographic diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) quotas that prolong racial discrimination and weaken meritocracy in the military, are demoralizing the troops.

At the same time, the armed forces are wasting time and resources on expensive climate change projects and alienating traditional families by indulging extreme demands from LGBT activists trying to extend their leftist agendas to children.

Pentagon officials keep denying the nature and consequences of woke policies in the military, but such issues are not difficult to recognize or define. For example, policies that promote inefficient, expensive electric vehicles (EVs) that cannot meet operational demands in garrison or combat, or directives that allow biological males to share women's private showers and athletic teams, fit the definition of wokeism: progressivism taken to extremes, with coercion, even if it hurts the institution.

In this time of great peril, aggressive nations are challenging American military superiority. All officials must restore sound priorities that put national security first.

President Joe Biden has nominated Air Force Chief of Staff General Charles Q. Brown, Jr. to be the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Brown's confirmation hearing on Tuesday, July 11, presents a critically important opportunity for members of the Senate to assess readiness problems in the armed forces honestly, and to press for ways to change direction.

The undersigned organizations and individuals call on members of the Senate to ask serious questions of General Brown on military personnel issues and all matters that affect readiness and morale, including the following:

- Racial discrimination known to exist in military service academy admissions.
- Mandates to increase percentages of minority persons, while consciously reducing non-minority (white males) in aviation and other demanding occupations.

- Education programs reserved for favored demographic groups, including sexual minorities, that deliberately exclude non-minority persons.
- Mandates to replace sex-specific terms with confusing pronouns and sex-neutral terms that are especially disrespectful to women.
- Critical race theory (CRT) education programs that promote racial stereotypes and anti-American attitudes.
- Justification for high-salaried diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) “experts.”
- Reality-denying transgender policies that violate servicewomen’s already-limited privacy and rights to compete on athletic teams reserved for women.
- Parent-excluding exposure of military-dependent children to CRT and transgender indoctrination pushing life-changing, irreversible treatments.
- Full disclosure of problems associated with transgender policies, on the same basis as sexual assault data, on an annual basis.
- Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin’s directive to end drag queen events, which stereotype and disrespect women, on military ships and installations.

Civilian control of the military means that all Americans have the responsibility to watch out for our men and women in uniform who must live and sometimes die under policies that they have no role in making.

We hope that members of the Senate will do what they can to ensure that the best military leaders available will have all the support they need to defend America in an increasingly dangerous world.

We also hope that Gen. Brown will commit to reducing or eliminating problematic personnel issues that affect readiness and morale, including those referenced above. If not, Senators should vote against this nomination.

America’s armed forces deserve to be led by strong leaders who are prepared to confront grave risks to national security, without imposing unnecessary social burdens on the brave men and women who volunteer to serve.

Respectfully,

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