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Over One Hundred Sixty Retired Generals and Admirals Request Congress Remove Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Funding from the Dept of Defense

Citing national security concerns, over 160 retired generals and admirals ask Congress to ensure no diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies, programs, and funding are included in the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. In a May 2023 letter to the leadership of the House Armed Services and Defense Appropriations committees, these retired flag officers warn the DEI programs are undermining the military's ability to first deter war and failing that, to fight and win our Nation's wars.

As Flag officers who have fought for our Nation, the officers are sounding the alarm that DEI poses a serious danger to our military's warrior ethos and is degrading warfighting readiness. They argue that equal opportunity and a meritocratic system that judges people, not based on skin color or any other identity characteristic, but rather by their character, performance, and potential has been battle tested for generations and proven essential for military success. Conversely, DEI policies and practices are rooted in cultural Marxism which promotes divisiveness not unity, in the ranks must be eliminated from the DoD.

As our nation faces looming threats from "foreign" adversaries/enemies, the flag officers argue that our military is under assault from a culture war stemming from "domestic" ideologically inspired policies and practices. "Equity" lowers standards, they argue, while equality provides opportunities for all to achieve. Equity's goal is equal outcomes. To achieve equal outcomes using identity group characteristics, standards must be lowered to accommodate the desired equity outcomes. Lower standards reduce performance where even slight differences in capability impact readiness and can determine war fighting mission success or failure.

Diversity and inclusion practices promote identity-based preferences for selections into career enhancing schools, promotions, and key assignments. As with equity, they lower standards by not always selecting the best qualified. Identity group-based preferences create friction and distrust in the ranks, damaging unit cohesion, teamwork and unity of effort, further degrading military readiness.

To safeguard the Nation from national security threats, the flag officers insist that DEI programs, policies, and funding must be eliminated from the DoD policies, programs, and funding in the 2024 NDAA. They say our military must be laser focused on one thing-being ready to fight and win our Nation's wars and not distracted by social engineering programs such as DEI.