

By Senator Collins

14-01912-23

20231382\_\_

Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging Congress to restore the United States Department of Defense's superior warfighting principles of recruiting, assigning, training, promoting, and retaining personnel solely based on merit and ensuring such personnel maintain and display a warrior ethos.

WHEREAS, the United States became the world's greatest warfighting nation shortly after its founding, a fact clearly demonstrated in the 1900s and early 2000s through its engagement in two World Wars and several other military campaigns throughout the globe, establishing a deterrent effect that has prevented another World War for almost 80 years, and

WHEREAS, the United States' military dominance in warfighting came about through reliance on the concept of meritocracy, in which personnel are recruited, assigned to specialties, assigned to positions within a unit, retained, and promoted based on their demonstrated aptitude and performance in the roles they are assigned to perform, regardless of their race, gender, sexual preference, or other person-centric identifiers, and

WHEREAS, the United States' military dominance in warfighting also came about through the ability of personnel to have and maintain a warrior ethos, one in which they are able to transition from being a kind, compassionate individual in peacetime to one who is willing and able to engage an enemy in battle with violence and lethality, and this includes support

14-01912-23

20231382\_\_

30 personnel who may not typically be called upon to engage an  
31 enemy face-to-face but nonetheless may find themselves in  
32 situations that require them to do so, and

33 WHEREAS, over the past several years, the United States  
34 Department of Defense and its military services have engaged in  
35 various practices eroding these warfighting principles to the  
36 point at which United States military dominance has been called  
37 into serious question, which practices include, but are not  
38 limited to:

39 (1) Overemphasizing and relying on diversity and inclusion  
40 in all its forms, including gender, gender identity, race, and  
41 sexual preference, as a primary determinant in how military  
42 forces should be comprised without providing credible and  
43 verifiable evidence that such a prescribed composition results  
44 in higher job performance, unit effectiveness, and mission  
45 accomplishment, as opposed to a model in which a meritocracy-  
46 based force composition is used;

47 (2) Making nonsensical "unconscious bias" training  
48 mandatory for all military and civilian personnel;

49 (3) Instituting mandatory "emergency use only" COVID-19  
50 vaccines with little regard to individual medical concerns in  
51 light of the Anthrax vaccine mandate problems of the late 1990s  
52 and denying almost all requests for exemptions based on  
53 religious grounds, which is particularly troubling given the  
54 recent decision by the United States Department of Defense to  
55 rescind the COVID-19 vaccine mandate; and

56 (4) Requiring mandatory training at the United States Air  
57 Force Academy to incorporate "person-centered" and gender-  
58 neutral language when describing individuals and to request

14-01912-23

20231382\_\_

59 cadets to consider using the term "parent" or "caregiver" rather  
60 than "mother" or "father" as to not offend those that may come  
61 from a different parenting background, and

62 WHEREAS, such practices are having a detrimental effect on  
63 recruitment, as the United States Army was 15,000 soldiers short  
64 of its 2022 recruiting goals, the worst recruiting year on  
65 record since the Armed Forces switched to an all-volunteer force  
66 nearly 50 years ago, and the remaining branches of the Armed  
67 Forces are well behind their historic goal rates as they enter  
68 into the 2023 recruiting season, and

69 WHEREAS, recent studies have found that most young  
70 Americans are not fit for military service, with the Department  
71 of Defense estimating that just 2 percent of those between the  
72 ages of 17 and 21 years have the desired combination of strong  
73 academic credentials, adequate physical fitness, and an interest  
74 in serving, and

75 WHEREAS, the combination of an incapable and uninterested  
76 recruiting age group and nonmerit-based practices calls into  
77 serious question whether the United States military currently  
78 has a sufficient number of members who hold a warrior ethos  
79 needed to effectively engage an enemy, and

80 WHEREAS, those with the necessary warrior ethos currently  
81 serving in the United States military are more likely to leave  
82 service, and those with the necessary warrior ethos before  
83 entering into service are more likely to refrain from enlisting  
84 as they discover the composition and practices of the Armed  
85 Services as referenced herein, NOW, THEREFORE,

86  
87 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14-01912-23

20231382\_\_

88

89 That the Congress of the United States is urged to use its  
90 authorization and appropriation authorities to prohibit the use  
91 of such "woke" social engineering and experimentation practices,  
92 which are eroding military effectiveness, and to mandate a  
93 return to a merit-based system for military force development  
94 and composition.

95 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch  
96 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,  
97 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
98 United States House of Representatives, and each member of the  
99 Florida delegation to the United States Congress.