117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S.

To prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. COTTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on ________________

A BILL

To prohibit the United States Armed Forces from promoting anti-American and racist theories.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Combatting Racist Training in the Military Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The founding principles of the United States include the belief, enshrined in the Declara-
tion of Independence, that “all men are created
equal” and “are endowed by their Creator with cer-
tain unalienable Rights”.

(2) The United States’ commitment to the
equal dignity and natural rights of all mankind is
the strongest possible defense against racism and
oppression of all kinds.

(3) The mission of the United States Armed
Forces is to “support and defend the Constitution of
the United States against all enemies, foreign and
domestic” and “bear true faith and allegiance to the
same”.

(4) To carry out this mission, the Armed
Forces must train leaders who love the United
States, its citizens, and the aforementioned founding
principles.

(5) Anti-American and racist theories, such as
“Critical Race Theory”, teach that the United
States is a fundamentally racist Nation, that the
Constitution is a fundamentally racist document,
and that certain races are fundamentally oppressive
or oppressed.

(6) Such theories encourage people to judge
and treat others differently on the basis of their
race, rather than treating them as equal citizens and
human beings with equal dignity and protection under the law.

(7) Anti-American and racist theories, such as Critical Race Theory, teach students to distrust and even hate their country and fellow citizens.

(8) The United States Armed Forces should not promote or otherwise encourage anti-American and racist theories that demoralize and divide its members while undermining its mission to “bear truth faith and allegiance” to the Constitution.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON PROMOTION OF ANTI-AMERICAN AND RACIST THEORIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States Armed Forces and academic institutions operated or controlled by the Department of Defense shall not promote the following anti-American and racist theories:

(1) Any race is inherently superior or inferior to any other race.

(2) The United States of America is a fundamentally racist country.

(3) The Declaration of Independence or the United States Constitution are fundamentally racist documents.

(4) An individual’s moral character or worth is determined by his or her race.
(5) An individual, by virtue of his or her race, is inherently racist or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.

(6) An individual, because of his or her race, bears responsibility for the actions committed by other members of his or her race.

(b) PROMOTE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “promote” means the following:

(1) Including theories described under subsection (a) or materials that advocate such theories in curricula, reading lists, seminars, workshops, trainings, or other educational or professional settings in a manner that could reasonably give rise to the appearance of official sponsorship, approval, or endorsement.

(2) Contracting with, hiring, or otherwise engaging speakers, consultants, diversity trainers, and other persons for the purpose of advocating theories described under subsection (a).

(3) Compelling members of the Armed Forces to affirm or profess belief in theories described under subsection (a).

(4) Segregating members of the Armed Forces or other individuals by race in any setting, including educational and training sessions.
(c) Rules of Construction.—

(1) Protected speech not restricted.—
Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict
the protected speech of members of the Armed
Forces or any individual.

(2) Access to materials for the purpose
of research or independent study.—Nothing
in this section shall be construed to prevent individ-
uals from accessing materials that advocate theories
described under subsection (a) for the purpose of re-
search or independent study.

(3) Contextual education.—Nothing in this
section shall be construed to prevent the United
States Armed Forces and academic institutions op-
erated or controlled by the Department of Defense
from stating theories described under subsection (a)
or assigning materials that advocate such theories
for educational purposes in contexts that make clear
the United States Armed Forces and Department of
Defense does not sponsor, approve, or endorse such
theories or works.