

June 13, 2022

The Honorable Lloyd J. Austin
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310

Dear Secretary Austin,

Spending taxpayer dollars to advance the Left's woke LGBTQ agenda is an unacceptable use of taxpayer dollars. Since you became Secretary of Defense you have consistently demonstrated a willingness to place far left policies above the readiness of our armed forces. The recent social media posts by branches of U.S. Armed Forces about "Pride Month" are just the latest example. The purpose of the United States military is to defend our nation and the freedoms we hold, making America the greatest country in the world. It seems that under your watch, our military has been more focused on woke virtue signaling than the defense of our nation.

On June 1, 2022, the U.S. Marines Corps shared a post on Twitter recognizing the start to Pride Month featuring a graphic of rainbow bullets and a helmet that states "Proud to Serve."¹ Additionally, the U.S. Space Force shared a Tweet on Pride Month that recognized the U.S. Air Force's LGBTQ Initiative Team (LIT), a working group formed by the Department that aims to "identify issues that the LGBTQ community faces" in the force.²

These posts are a distraction from our armed forces' primary purpose and have nothing to do with accomplishing their mission. The men and woman of our armed forces join to defend our freedoms and protect our country, not to advance a social agenda.

The Department of Defense must be focused on the growing threats facing our nation. We have our greatest adversary, China, building up its military and threatening our strategic partners every day, yet your Department of Defense is focused on Pride Month. Your department's budget is among the highest in all the federal government and while you constantly ask Congress for more funding, you have chosen to use it to promote social programs instead of advancing military preparedness.

Instead of wasting money promoting Pride Month you should be more focused on ensuring that our military is prepared to defend our country. Please provide us a breakdown by branch of how much money your department will spend on Pride Month related activities this year. Please provide this information no later than June 30, 2022.

¹ U.S. Marines (@USMC), Twitter (June 1, 2022, 9:41 AM)
<https://twitter.com/USMC/status/1531994393950953472>

² United States Space Force (@SpaceForceDoD), Twitter (June 1, 2022, 9:10 AM)
<https://twitter.com/SpaceForceDoD/status/1531986425331298305>

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and I look forward to your response.

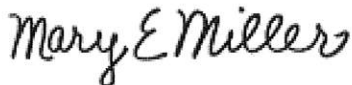
Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Andrew Clyde
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Marjorie Taylor Greene
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop

Dan Bishop
Member of Congress

Diana Harshbarger

Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress