

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Thomas W. Harker
Acting Secretary of the Navy
Department of Defense
1000 Navy Pentagon
Room 4D652
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Acting Secretary Harker:

We write to raise concerns regarding Task Force One Navy's efforts to combat discrimination in the Department of the Navy. Equality of opportunity and fairness have long been hallmarks of the U.S. Armed Forces. The military is an American institution where it does not matter what your background is, what race you are, where you came from, what gender you are, what your income is, how educated you are, what religion you believe in, who you voted for, or who you love. All that matters is your shared love of country and oath of service.

We are concerned that the pledge to intersectionality proposed by Task Force One Navy goes against the aforementioned guiding principles of unity and equality. The pledge promises to "acknowledge all lived experiences and intersectional identities of every sailor in the Navy...to inform the development of Navy-wide reforms." The Navy is built on teamwork and unity, but intersectionality is designed to divide people into different victim groups that are oppressed by other groups.

We are concerned that intersectionality's emphasis on dividing people into warring identity groups will have a negative impact on morale and readiness. While we are facing rising threats from powerful adversaries like Russia, China, and radical Islamic terrorism, the military needs to project strength and unity—not woke corporate HR policy. In order to be effective warfighters, our Sailors need to be united, not divided by the petty turf wars of left-wing academia.

Rather than requiring Sailors to pledge to acknowledge intersectional identities, the Department of the Navy needs to devote resources to helping Sailors fulfill their oaths to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States" by spending time and resources to improving training, equipment, and morale.

These issues lead to the following questions:

- Will the diversity pledge be administered to new recruits at the same time as the enlistment oath?

- Will violations of the diversity pledge be prosecuted under the USMCJ?
- Will the new recruits be taught what intersectionality is? And what type of training materials will be presented given the wide disagreement over intersectional thought in far-left academia?
- What if a recruit rejects the key tenets of intersectional thought, such as, that America is a fundamentally racist, sexist, and homophobic institution?
- What impact does the anti-American rhetoric prevalent in the intersectional school of thought have on morale and readiness?
- Does taking an oath to uphold intersectional ideology that criticizes the U.S. Constitution conflict with the oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States?
- Will Sailors be promoted based on their level of commitment to intersectional ideology?
- Will Christians and Orthodox Jews who join the Navy have their life experiences celebrated and honored by members of the woke regime if they believe that marriage is between a man and a woman or if they believe that the unborn deserve the right to life?
- What if a Sailor's life experiences lead them to believe that the police, military, and first responders are a patriotic force for good, will the woke trainers honor and encourage those "intersectional identities?"
- How does advancing the intersectional narrative that straight white males are oppressors of victim groups create unity in the Navy? Doesn't the narrative of oppression create division between the so-called oppressors and oppressed?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your prompt response to these questions. Given these questions and concerns we have about this pledge, we ask you to immediately stop pursuing this ideological agenda that compromises national security.

Sincerely,



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress