

INPUT TO 2026 NDAA TO REMOVE DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION FROM THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES AND ALL OF ITS ASSOCIATED RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITY AND INFLUENCE

PROPOSED BY STARRS, MS, CTG

WHEREAS, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) was established in 1972 in Bethesda, Maryland and has graduated uniformed doctors, nurses, and other allied health professionals since 1980;

WHEREAS, USUHS, like the traditional service academies, is more expensive to operate than traditional civilian medical institutions, but the cost is justified by the unique military-specific medical training and career longevity of its graduates that have proved their worth in peacetime and wartime;

WHEREAS, USUHS has a budget of approximately \$187 million from the FY2024 Defense Health Program¹;

WHEREAS, the Center for Health Services Research (CHSR) is located at USUHS and has an approximate annual budget of \$2 million and \$20 million in grants from 2018-2023 and is the recognized leader² in the estimated \$900 million Military Health System (MHS) medical research and development arena and as such has substantial influence on medical related research in the Department of Defense (DoD);

WHEREAS, the DoD faces an ongoing health crisis among uniformed Service members with notable CY2023 523 Service member suicides, CY2023 Service member 68% overweight rate and 21.6% obesity rate that deserve USUHS and CHSR's fullest attention;

WHEREAS, USUHS has been infiltrated by Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) long before DEI became a SECDEF strategic priority under the prior administration's directives;

WHEREAS, DEI has become an integral part of USUHS' student education, student lifestyle, research projects, publications, faculty teaching style, and hiring practices;

THEREFORE, The Secretary of Defense shall establish a commission to evaluate the curriculum, faculty backgrounds and academic activity, research project and activity, academic programs, and budget of USUHS and CHSR. The commission will be composed of equal members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The commission will ensure that DEI has been completely removed in all forms from USUHS, CHSR, and their activities; ensure faculty are not promoting in any way DEI in their activities; and ensure that USUHS and CHSR are 100% focused on the health needs of DoD in the 21st Century and beyond as outlined by the SECDEF's priorities. The investigation will include both USUHS and CHSR activities.

The Commission shall establish a professional staff, contracted through the General Services Administration. It will provide quarterly reports, and within a maximum of 180 days a final report, to the President, the Senate Armed Services Committee, the House Armed Services

¹ <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12377>

² CHSR Strategic 2024-2028 (June 2024)

Committee, and the Secretary of Defense on what needs to be retained, restored, removed or improved at USUHS and CHSR. In turn, the Secretary of Defense will report to the President, the Senate Armed Services Committee, and the House Armed Services Committee the Commission's recommended changes