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March 7, 2024

LTG Richard M. Clark  
Superintendent  
United States Air Force Academy  
2304 Cadet Drive  
Air Force Academy, CO 80840

The Honorable Alex Wagner  
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower & Reserve Affairs  
Department of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670.

Dear General Clark and Assistant Secretary Wagner,

We write to you regarding the U.S. Air Force Academy's (USAFA's) National Character and Leadership Symposium, which took place from February 21, 2024, to February 23, 2024.

Specifically, we are concerned by U.S. Space Force engineer and member of the Air Force's LGBT Initiatives Team Colonel (Col.) Bree Fram's partisan statements criticizing President Trump's transgender servicemember policy. During a talk, Col. Fram stated: "While I don't have a crystal ball, I can look out and say, 'Well, either next year things will be great or I will be fighting for my ability to continue serving.'"

Col. Fram's remarks fit into a pattern of partisan statements at military academy conferences. On September 20, 2023, two members of the Military Personnel Subcommittee wrote you a letter, to which you failed to provide an adequate response, asking a series of questions about an Air Force cadet's remark at the U.S. Military Academy's Annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference that potentially violate Article 88 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

The cadet said:

So, the United States Air Force Academy has a Diversity and Inclusion Minor that teaches classes on gender, race, and nationalism in the class,

and these teachings have been incredibly controversial across the U.S. with an outright ban in Florida and the Superintendent of the United States Air Force Academy being questioned for it in Congress and the video going viral. Can cadets and service academies safeguard the teachings of these topics, or, if we get a particularly bad batch of Congressman, are these teachings like (sic) screwed?

In response to a reporter at the *Daily Wire*, the USAFA defended Col. Fram's remarks, saying the comments "reinforced the value of diversity within our military and the importance of removing unnecessary barriers to service." In addition to defending left wing statements related to transgenderism in the military, the USAFA has a history of favoring radical viewpoints on transgenderism within the classroom. In September 2023, Chairman of the Military Readiness Subcommittee Michael Waltz released USAFA diversity training slides that instructed cadets to, "use words that include all genders: 'Folks' or 'Y'all' instead of 'guys'; 'partner' vs. 'boyfriend or girlfriend," and to "consider 'parent or caregiver' instead of 'mom and dad.'"

No later than March 28, 2024, please provide the Military Personnel Subcommittee with answers to the following questions:

1. Is Colonel Fram still a member of Air Force's LGBT Initiatives Team?
2. Is the Air Force's LGBT Initiatives Team a full-time duty or a collateral duty for Col. Fram?
3. What is the purpose of the Air Force's LGBT Initiatives Team? What are their goals, events, and activities?
4. Does the Air Force have similar initiative for other identity groups? If so, what are they, and what are their goals, events, and activities?
5. Can you explain the application of the UCMJ to military academy students as it relates to academic freedom and freedom of speech? When, where, and to what extent are their First Amendment rights protected, and when they are subject to the code for partisan speech?
6. Does the USAFA still ask cadets to use "partner" instead of "girlfriend" or "boyfriend," or any of the other examples of speech included in the USAFA diversity training slides released in the September 2023 hearing?

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

Sincerely,



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Jim Banks  
Chairman, Military Personnel Subcommittee



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Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress