

Eagle Forum Report

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Defending, Not Destroying, Life

I KEPT MY WORD

by Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)

Shortly after the Supreme Court handed down its *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, U.S. Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin sent an internal memo to the department saying that the decision would have “readiness implications” for the force. My team and I reached out for clarification about his comments, not knowing that we’d still seek answers more than a year later. We finally became aware of Austin’s intention to implement a policy that would pay for travel and extra time off for service members getting an abortion using taxpayer dollars. A third-party study estimated this policy could increase the number of abortions subsidized by taxpayers to more than 4,000 annually — 205 times the number of abortions performed last year.

I warned Secretary Austin that if he went through with his plan to turn the military into an abortion travel agency, I would place a hold on his civilian and flag/general officer promotions.

He did it anyway, and I kept my word.

Since then, the Pentagon has refused to answer specific questions I’ve asked in my letters. Questions like: how many service members have

taken advantage of this illegal policy? Or how many taxpayer dollars have been spent

to pay travel expenses for people to get abortions? While I’d like to think this is due to a massive mail backlog at the Pentagon, DoD leaders seem to have no issue responding to letters from Democrats like Elizabeth Warren. This leads me to believe that Secretary Austin doesn’t want to answer my questions. Recently, I sent another letter to Secretary Austin following up on my request for more information. I will continue asking because the American taxpayers deserve to know all the details surrounding this policy.

When I ran for Senate, I promised the people of Alabama that I would fight for their values here in Washington, D.C. A vast majority of Alabamians are pro-life, and don’t want their hard-earned tax dollars going to anything to do with abortion. This checks out at the national level as well: polls show that sixty percent of Americans — Democrats, Independents, and Republicans — don’t believe tax dollars should be used for abortions.

Democrats have called me all sorts of names thinking that it would get me to change my mind. But this




Sen. Tommy Tuberville/
YouTube

has only confirmed to me that I’m doing the right thing. Our military is supposed to defend life — not destroy it.

Joe Biden says my stance is harming readiness. But the Biden administration isn’t concerned about readiness or building a strong military. Their only concern is implementing their woke agenda that discourages future recruits and weakens our force. We saw this firsthand when President Biden and Secretary Austin discharged approximately 8,000 servicemembers for their refusal to take an experimental vaccine without giving a thought to how firing 8,000 honorable men and women would affect readiness.

A recent survey showed one of the top reasons people don’t want to enlist is a lack of trust in military leaders. That’s because of this widespread and justified perception that our military is becoming less friendly to conservatives or even moderates. We can’t have a politicized military — that’s not who we are as a country. Our servicemembers should be loyal to one thing and one thing only: the Constitution of the United States of America.

I am deeply grateful for the support of Eagle Forum members across the nation and in my home state of Alabama. Your prayers and encouragement are so important. I look forward to continuing to stand alongside of you as we fight to protect the unborn. 

DoD IS ALL-IN ON LGBT

by Elaine Donnelly, President of the Center for Military Readiness, an independent public policy organization that reports on and analyzes military and social issues.

Senator Tommy Tuberville is standing firm in his determination to stop Defense Department travel subsidies for abortions. Pushback against his stand is not surprising, but the vitriol aimed at the Alabama Republican suggests the controversy involves more than just taxpayer-funded abortion.

On Oct. 20, 2022, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin issued a memorandum offering generous time off and travel subsidies for military women and families seeking abortions across state lines. To stop Austin's unilateral action, Tuberville put a "hold" on group confirmations of Department of Defense personnel nominations and promotions.

Critics are accusing Tuberville of harming national security, but as Tuberville recently proved, his hold does not preclude confirmation of individual nominations. Both political parties historically have used this legislative "check and balance" option to delay or defeat some executive branch proposals.

Attacks on Tuberville Escalate

Tuberville's determination has caused heads to explode with disproportionate fury. National Security Spokesman John Kirby launched an impassioned tirade proclaiming the Pentagon's "foundational, sacred obligation" to subsidize abortions. Then a trio of top civilian leaders castigated Tuberville in an op-ed and a joint CNN interview.

Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro accused Sen. Tuberville of "aiding and abetting a communist [government]" and "playing Russian roulette" with the lives of service members. Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall complained about "taunting"

from a Chinese colonel criticizing our democracy.

According to Politico, only "a small number" of military women have sought travel expenses related to abortion. Senate Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Roger Wicker (R-MS), asked Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in a letter whether reports that "approximately 12 women" have used the abortion travel program were accurate.

America's military strength does not depend on military women aborting their babies. The Senate can confirm deserving nominees, so, what explains the relentless attacks on Tuberville?

Big Money and Gender Politics

If Austin can get away with subsidizing abortion without a vote of Congress, Pentagon ideologues and outside activists will not stop there. The same officials who have willingly enlisted in the administration's campaign for abortion until birth will demand "access" to other controversial services deemed "medically necessary."

Austin's memorandum used the keywords "access" or "accessing reproductive health care," meaning abortion, seven times on three pages. DoD Instruction 1300.28, which expanded Defense Department regulations regarding transgender-identified personnel, used the word "access" for so-called "gender-affirming care" 17 times on 22 pages.

It is easy to predict where activists and highly paid Pentagon "experts" are going with this. Unless Congress intervenes, DoD abortion travel subsidies will set a precedent for more expenditures not authorized by Congress. These will include gen-

erous time off and travel subsidies for adults and children seeking "gender-affirming care" across state lines.

Some private companies, like Indeed, Intuit, Netflix, and Starbucks, are offering travel benefits and "gender-affirming care" insurance for their employees. If the DoD extends similar travel and treatment subsidies to military personnel and families, this will create a huge new market for providers of these services.

This may explain why 155 members of Congress — a regular who's who of LGBT leftist activists — co-signed a letter demanding that conferees working on the National Defense Authorization Act for 2024 remove any prohibitions on the use of DoD funds for transgender treatments. The letter specifically mentions House NDAA sections barring funding through TRICARE insurance or the Exceptional Family Member Program for children receiving "gender-affirming" (including genital mutilation and chemical castration) interventions in states where they are legal.



According to The Daily Caller, the Department of Defense is already quietly using EFMP funds to cover travel expenses of parents seeking transgender medical interventions for their children. In response, Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC), successfully sponsored an amendment to the NDAA to prohibit the Defense Department from using EFMP funds for "gender transition procedures."

Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT), spon-

(Continued on page 3)

sored a measure barring TRICARE coverage for sex-denying hormones and surgeries, which is in the pending defense bill, and Rep. Ronny Jackson (R-TX), introduced another measure that passed the House and would end DoD abortion travel subsidies.

If conferees remove these provisions from the NDAA, nothing will stand in the way of unilateral Defense Department travel subsidies for non-covered abortions and “medically necessary” transgender interventions and surgeries for adults and children crossing state lines.

Prioritizing the Transgender

The primary beneficiaries of these funds will be organizations like Planned Parenthood and medical facilities funded by the J.B. & M.K. Pritzker Foundation.

Investigative journalist Jennifer Bilek reported that the billionaire


Pritzker family and related philanthropic outfits promote “synthetic sexual identities,” known as SSI, by pouring millions into LGBT groups, including some that are advising Pentagon officials on transgender policies.

The Pentagon is not reporting current expenditures related to Biden's policies, but a Trump administration panel of experts assessing costs of transgender policies implemented under Barack Obama reported a 300 percent increase in medical costs for 994 active-duty service members diagnosed with gender dysphoria.

The panel also found some commanders had to divert operational and maintenance funds to pay for active-duty servicemembers' travel throughout the United States to obtain specialized "transition" treatments and surgeries.

A new Government Accountability Office report revealed shoddy, unsafe living conditions in military barracks, but this Pentagon likely will assign priority to the “sacrament” of abortion and costly attempts to pursue synthetic sexual identities.

The Defense Department exists to defend the country, not to spend untold millions on controversial medical procedures. If Tuberville backs down on abortion subsidies, demands for free travel expenses and time off for military personnel seeking sex-denying treatments and surgeries for themselves or dependent children logically will follow.

Tuberville should continue to stand firm, Congress should lend support in the pending defense bill, and Austin should rescind the abortion subsidies that triggered the confirmation impasse without further delay. 

IMAGINE THERE'S NO PLASTIC

by Ronald Stein an engineer, senior policy advisor on energy literacy for CFACT, and co-author of the Pulitzer Prize-nominated book “Clean Energy Exploitations.”

Chemical products, such as plastics, solvents, and fertilizers, include more than 6,000 oil-based products that are essential for supporting modern lifestyles.

Recognizing that eradicating the world of oil without a replacement in mind would be immoral and evil, as extreme shortages of the products now manufactured from fossil fuels will result in billions of fatalities from diseases, malnutrition, and weather-related deaths, and could be the greatest threat to the world's eight billion population.

Wind turbines and solar panels can only generate intermittent electricity. They cannot manufacture any products for society. The “energy conundrum” is that “renewables” only generate electricity, yet most products derive from oil.

Crude oil is virtually useless unless it is refined into the fuel and products that did not exist before the 1900s.

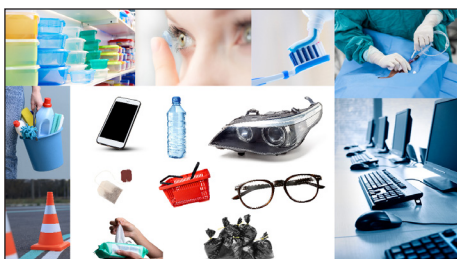
The world cannot eliminate crude oil and continue to enjoy the products and fuels manufactured from fossil fuels that can be manufactured into something usable like the fuels for the heavy-weight and long-range transportation infrastructures of ships and jets and the derivatives that make the more than 6,000 products and fuels that have made our lives more comfortable.

Globally, excluding China, about 3 million barrels per day of refining capacity closed since January 2020. The future does not bode well, as 20 percent of the 700 worldwide refineries are expected to close in the next five years, i.e., 140 closures. Further inflation and shortages in perpetuity are guaranteed, as those refineries are manufacturing the fuels for the jets moving people and products, and the merchant ships for global trade flows, of the products for society and the military and space programs.

China is coming to the rescue with 88 new refineries for manufactured oil derivatives that are the basis of almost every product being used by mankind, as well as the manufactured fuels used by every transportation infrastructure and the military.

The shortages of the products, fuels, pesticides, and fertilizers man-

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ufactured from fossil fuels will also contribute to shortages and further inflation in perpetuity as wind turbines and solar panels are both incapable of manufacturing anything; they just generate occasional electricity.

We may have long-range plans to generate electricity from wind, solar, or nuclear fusion, but no plans to replace crude oil that is manufactured into everything in our daily lives. Thus, efforts to cease the use of crude oil could be the greatest threat to civilization, not climate change, and lead the world to an era of guaranteed extreme shortages of fossil fuel products, as we had in the decarbonized world in the 1800s, which may result in billions of fatalities from diseases, malnutrition, and weather-related deaths trying to live without these products.

United States Department of Energy was established in 1977 to lessen our dependence on foreign oil. Now, with 16,000 employees and a 31 billion dollar annual budget, and 46 years later, we're importing more oil than ever!

World leaders have no plans to replace the products and fuels now manufactured from fossil fuels.

It's shocking that the media continues to refrain from asking the government leaders and policymakers of current green electricity mandates a John Stossel-styled "give-me-a-break" question: Can you imagine our world without plastic? 

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SUPPLEMENTAL SLUSH FUNDS

by Jordan Schachtel, an reporter at *The Dossier*, permission to reprint.

President Biden has called for \$100 billion in supplemental funding, much of which includes foreign aid. With the United States now over \$33 trillion in debt, it's more important than ever to scrutinize supplemental funding requests. Here's a list, via CBS News, of what's being requested from the current Congress.

\$61 billion for Ukraine

As Mitch McConnell (R-KY) openly admitted, the war in Ukraine has become a giant slush fund for the defense industry. Strategically, there is no winning for Americans. There is no scenario in which Ukraine will be able to defeat Russia or push Moscow back beyond the significant chunk of Russia-friendly turf in Ukraine. All of the money being spent there has become a sunk cost for the American taxpayer. It's a lose-lose unless you happen to own shares with or work for Raytheon, Boeing, Lockheed.

\$14 billion in Israel assistance

\$10 billion is for air and missile defense support. Similar to the Ukraine situation, the money is not going to Israel, but to the U.S. defense industry. Nonetheless, there is a stark difference between the two situations. Israel is on the front line in the fight against a new global jihadist uprising. Ukraine is fighting an inter-Slavic turf war on behalf of NATO.

Moreover, Israel can actually achieve its military objective in the defeat of Hamas, whereas the best Ukraine can hope for is a negotiation over what's left of its territory. A victory for Israel will pay significant dividends for the West as a whole.

\$9 billion for humanitarian needs

If any of this money goes into Gaza or the West Bank, it will be used by Hamas and other radical factions

to continue their endless jihad against Israel and the West. American taxpayers should not be subsidizing the welfare of non-Americans. Humanitarian assistance is largely a racket.

\$3 billion for submarines

This money will be dedicated to ramping up production at the U.S. Navy's four public shipyards. Submarines are a critical component of maintaining nuclear deterrence.

\$2 billion Indo-Pacific security

A vague request for money to combat China and work with American allies near China. It doesn't seem specific enough to be helpful.

\$11 billion for border security

While advertised as a border security measure, much of the money will go to government agencies tasked with supporting illegal aliens. The Biden Administration remains opposed to actually securing America's Southern Border.

\$2 billion to counter China in developing countries

Another potential slush fund purposed with throwing more money at corrupt leaders than China can throw.

\$1 billion for countering fentanyl

Good luck with that.

\$1 billion for migrant support

Welfare for illegal aliens.

The vast majority of these funds (75-80%) is a total waste of money, particularly the \$61 billion request for Ukraine. Restocking Israel's arsenal can deliver some bang for your buck. The money deployed to limit China's prowess should be targeted. Funds that can be deployed to continue America's qualitative military advantage are generally money well spent. Targeted support is generally good. Vague slush funds are generally bad. 