

July 11, 2024

RE: Vote “NO” on H.R. 8772, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY 2025

Dear Representative:

The American Civil Liberties Union strongly urges you to vote “NO” on H.R. 8772, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for FY 2025, given the inclusion of harmful poison pill riders in this bill.

Section 212 seeks to broadly eliminate all diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DEI”) training programs concerning race and sex discrimination. This provision generally and vaguely prohibits the promotion of so-called “divisive concepts” attributing inherent superiority or moral character to one race or sex. However, the DEI training programs at issue promote the exact opposite, as they seek to fulfill the mandate of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to eliminate employment discrimination stemming from implicit bias and stereotypes against all persons based on race, color, national origin, sex, and religion. These programs aim to create inclusive and welcoming workplace environments for all employees.

Section 213 is intended to allow for sweeping taxpayer-funded discrimination against married same-sex couples. Freedom of religion is a fundamental American value protected by the First Amendment. This provision, however, turns religious freedom on its head, transforming it from a shield that protects to a sword to discriminate and cause harm. No one should ever be denied government services simply because of who they are nor should any American have to subsidize their own discrimination.

For these reasons, the ACLU strongly urges you to vote “NO” on final passage of H.R. 8772. Please contact Tara Stutsman at [tstutsman@aclu.org](mailto:tstutsman@aclu.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,



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National Policy and Government and Affairs Director



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