

Dear House Member:

During consideration of H.R. 4365, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024, Taxpayers for Common Sense has a series of vote recommendations.

Voting **AYE** on the following amendments is a vote for fiscally conservative values and greater oversight of how the Pentagon spends our federal tax dollars:

Amendment #169, originally numbered 221 – sponsored by Reps. Jayapal (D-WA), Davidson (R-OH), Moulton (D-MA), Garamendi (D-CA), and McClintock (R-CA). This bi-partisan amendment prohibits the use of funds to administer Unfunded Priority Lists (UPLs), extra-budgetary requests that undermine civilian oversight of the military by requiring military leadership to send additional funding requests to Congress without input from the Secretary of Defense or the secretaries of each military service branch.

Voting **NAY** on the following amendments is a vote for fiscally conservative values and greater oversight of how the Pentagon spends our federal tax dollars:

Amendment #181, originally numbered 43 – sponsored by Reps. Roy (R-TX) and Cammack (R-FL). This amendment prohibits funds from being used to implement President Biden's climate change executive orders. As the Pentagon has repeatedly conveyed, climate change poses significant national security challenges. Preventing the implementation of President Biden's executive orders on climate change would undermine the Pentagon's ability to assess and mitigate those challenges.

Amendment #170, originally numbered 338 – sponsored by Rep. Leger Fernandez (D-NM). This amendment would prohibit the use of funds to transfer the 6th Special Operations Squadron from Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico, preventing Pentagon plans to transfer the 6th Special Operations Squadron to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona.

Taxpayers for Common Sense also urges you to vote **NAY** on the following amendments, which rely on a 19th century precedent enshrined in the Holman Rule to reduce the salaries of government appointees to \$1. This archaic rule was intended to address patronage positions, not to effectively eliminate the salaries of critical appointees for political reasons as it is being used in these amendments. Enacting these amendments would likely cost taxpayers more in the long run given the impediments they would create to civilian oversight of the military.

Amendment #155, originally numbered 74 – sponsored by Rep. Boebert (R-CO). This amendment would reduce the salary of Shawn Skelly, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness, to \$1.

Amendment #156, originally numbered 75 – sponsored by Rep. Boebert (R-CO). This amendment would reduce the salary of Norvel Dillard, Director of Diversity and Inclusion Management at the Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of the Department of Defense, to \$1.

Amendment #161, originally numbered 124 – sponsored by Rep. Fallon (R-TX). This amendment would reduce the salary of Kelisa Wing, within the Department of Defense, to \$1.00.

Amendment #167, originally numbered 45 – sponsored by Reps. Greene (R-GA) and Van Orden (R-WI). This amendment would prevent funds from being used to pay Defense Secretary Lloyd James Austin III a salary that exceeds \$1.

Amendment #178, originally numbered 175 – sponsored by Rep. Roy (R-TX). This amendment would reduce the salary of Cyrus Salazar (Director of DoD's Office for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) to one \$1.

Furthermore, Taxpayers for Common Sense urges you to vote **NAY** on H.R. 4365 as it is currently drafted, and to vote **NAY** on any Continuing Resolution that includes H.R. 4365 as it is currently drafted, to support fiscally conservative values and greater oversight of Pentagon spending.

Again, TCS believes adhering to these vote recommendations shows support for fiscally conservative spending values and greater Congressional oversight of how the Pentagon uses our tax revenues. If you have any questions about these recommendations, please contact Gabe Murphy, Policy Analyst at Taxpayers for Common Sense at gabe@taxpayer.net.

Thank you for your consideration of these vote recommendations.

Sincerely,

Steve Ellis