

**House Budget Committee Hearing:
“Exposing the Woke, Wasteful, and Bloated Bureaucracy”
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Chairman Arrington and Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me here today.

Late last year, the Center for Renewing America released a proposed Budget that sought to provide a strategic vision indelibly linking the efforts for getting our nation’s finances in order with removing the menace of woke and weaponized bureaucracy which is aimed squarely at the American people.

The main thing I hope to leave you with today is a conviction that the woke enterprise is in fact a cultural revolution bent on destroying America. The federal government is now a main distribution channel of it. And if you do not act soon, we will not have a country left.

But first, what does woke mean?

Historically “woke” meant being aware of racial injustices. However, decades later, “woke” is now identity-based neo-Marxism, and its goal is to destroy American society. The woke adopt the view that our society is structured to oppress the “marginalized” and that differences between groups are attributable to this systemic oppression. The required solution is to abolish those oppressive norms in the name of “equity,” that is, equal outcomes regardless of merit. In sum, the woke stoke division among Americans based on identity in order to tear down the republic, eliminate capitalism, marginalize religion, and rupture the nuclear family.

As I mentioned, our budget proposal took an indepth look at each department and found that the federal bureaucracy is a significant funder of this woke cultural revolution. It is the framework by which the bureaucracy operates; it is how it structures programs and makes funding decisions and what training and guidelines it adopts. And because the bureaucracy is so big and spends trillions of dollars, private businesses are happily coerced into the same mission.

Just a small sample of what we found in health, education, and foreign aid.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) actively push so-called “gender-affirming” care which is cross-sex hormones and surgical mutilation, even for minors.[1] NIH funds human fetal tissue harvesting from aborted babies for “medical research.”[2] And CDC spent nearly \$6 billion to “address COVID-19 health disparities” through the lens of “health equity.”[3] Twenty-five states allow Medicaid to pay for chemical castration via “hormone therapy,” and twenty-three states pay for irreversible and

mutilating genital surgery.[4] And the Biden administration's Section 1557 rule would require all insurance to cover chemical castration and sex change surgeries or be deemed discriminatory.[5]

Federal grants often have a specific woke purpose, but they also serve as a taxpayer-funded lifeline to civil institutions committed to spreading the woke dogma. The University of Maryland Medical System performs gender transition surgeries on boys and girls at the earliest onset of puberty, as young as 9-10 years old and received a \$3.5 million grant to "increase mental health" and "advance gender-affirming" care for LGBT clients. Or take \$4.7 million CDC grant to the National Minority AIDS Council for "training and technical assistance." That organization engages in pro-Black Lives Matter activism and promotes radical gender theory. Three CDC grants totaling \$8 million went to AccessMatters based in Philadelphia for "comprehensive HIV prevention projects" and so-called "family healthcare." That organization says its abortion services are provided through the lens of "equity," which means explicitly pushing abortion on vulnerable minority populations.

The Department of Education, often under the guise of "Culturally Responsive Learning" and "Social Emotional Learning" (SEL), is an active adversary of parents and citizens concerned about the inherent race essentialism of CRT and gender theory. Through "Equity Assistance Centers" it trains teachers to incorporate Critical Race Theory and gender transition of children without parental knowledge. It has also provided more than \$60 million through its Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) program to morph teachers into progressive activists.[6] The Department's criteria for "culturally responsive learning" in its K-12 History and Civics Education competitive grant program reminds applicants that America is systemically racist and emphasized both Ibram X. Kendi's "*How to Be an Anti-Racist*" and the factually-challenged *1619 Project* propaganda campaign pushed by the *New York Times*.[7]

Lastly, at least for this testimony, the State Department's Diplomatic Programs (DP) remain geared toward exporting woke ideology abroad. Millions of dollars go to support programs like gay pride parades in Prague, LGBTI activists in Senegal, LGBTQIA+ social events in Australia, and drag theater in Ecuador.

Woke is the umbrella ideology and it uses all manner of terms and concepts - like equity, inclusion. Every dollar should be examined to determine what, in fact, the country is spending money on. Every diversity officer or department created to implement the Biden Equity EO, the Treasury Department's "counselor for racial equity," anti-bias training, competitive grants based on identity group, and every dollar to achieve "equity" (a term now used to justify intentional discrimination, to achieve pre-determined outcomes, for politically-favored groups) should be eliminated. This should absolutely not be an exercise in austerity wherein every program must take a hit. The Left has no interest in fiscal responsibility. It is anathema to their ideology. So why should their spending priorities be protected, especially when it is those very priorities that are fracturing American communities and families with the Left's extremism?

Wokeness is now essentially a taxpayer-funded secular religion—crafted by secular elites to supplant this nation’s Judeo-Christian traditions that have stood the test of time. It is dangerous—existentially dangerous—for Congress to continue funding the priorities of a neo-Marxist ideology that seeks only to destroy that which has come before. You must dismantle woke and weaponized government now, while there is still time.

[1] National Center for Biotechnology Information at the National Institutes of Health (January 19, 2022). “Medical Interventions for Transgender Youth,” Nokoff, N. MD, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, *National Library of Medicine*. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK577212/>

[2] Heipel, E. (August 9, 2021). “Investigate Now: Federal Grants Sponsored Possibly Live Baby Harvesting at University of Pittsburgh,” *The Federalist*. <https://thefederalist.com/2021/08/09/investigate-now-federal-grants-sponsored-possibly-live-baby-harvesting-at-university-of-pittsburgh/> and Congressional Letter. (September 21, 2021).

[3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services (March 29, 2022). “COVID-19 Vaccine Equity for Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups,” *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/vaccine-equity.html>

[4] The Kaiser Family Foundation (October 11, 2022). “Update on Medicaid Coverage of Gender-Affirming Care,” The Kaiser Family Foundation. <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/update-on-medicaid-coverage-of-gender-affirming-health-services/>

[5] Office of Civil Rights and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services (August 4, 2022). “Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Amend Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act,” *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/08/04/2022-16217/nondiscrimination-in-health-programs-and-activities>

[6] Department of Education Press Office (September 27, 2022). “U.S. Department of Education Awards Over \$60 Million to Strengthen the Teacher Pipeline,” *U.S. Department of Education*. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-awards-over-60-million-strengthen-teacher-pipeline-increase-educator-leadership-and-support-quality-teaching-and-learning-further-address-teacher-shortage>

[7] Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education (April 19, 2021). “*Proposed Priorities—American History and Civics*”

Education,” Federal Register. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-19/pdf/2021-08068.pdf>