



IWV Supports The Ending Racism in Government Contracting Act

November 26, 2024

Dear Members of Congress,

Independent Women's Voice (IWV), which fights to enhance people's freedom, opportunities, and well-being, is proud to support the **Ending Racism in Government Contracting Act**, introduced by Senator Mike Lee and Representative Glenn Grothman.

Government contracting today is based on racial discrimination, focusing exclusively on race and completely neglecting other aspects that individuals bring to the table. This practice is in violation of the Constitution. As the Supreme Court held in ***Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*** (2023), government discrimination on the basis of race is unlawful under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.


This practice also does nothing to advance true equality. In fact, racial discrimination can lead to wide-ranging harm to those it purports to help. That's because affirmative action-style quotas undermine those who are supposed to benefit, calling into question whether they were selected for their value or solely for their race.

This bill stops the federal government from fixating solely on race when making contracting decisions by eliminating race-based contracting quotas, mandates, and programs. Additionally, it requires federal agencies to rescind rules and regulations mandating racial favoritism to contractors and prevents similar rules and regulations from being reissued.

Rather than attempting to construct its contracting workforce to meet certain politically contrived quotas, the government should focus on awarding contracts on the basis of merit in order to get the best deal for taxpayers. All business owners must be treated equally and should have the opportunity to thrive—no matter their race, background, or class.

We thank Senator Lee and Representative Grothman for their leadership on this important issue. Independent Women's Voice applauds this bill and urges all members to work towards its swift passage.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carrie Lukas". The script is cursive and elegant, with the first letters of "Carrie" and "Lukas" being capitalized and prominent.

Carrie Lukas

Vice President

Independent Women's Voice