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PHOENIX PRIDE STATEMENT REGARDING
U.S. SUPREME COURT'S RULING ON TRANSGENDER
INDIVIDUALS SERVING IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

PHOENIX — **Phoenix Pride** has issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that the Trump Administration can move forward, temporarily, with its ban on service in the U.S. Armed Forces by transgender individuals:

“We are appalled by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to allow the misguided bigotry of the current administration to fester in the ranks of the U.S. Armed Forces for the sake of scoring political points with a hateful and spiteful constituency.

“Transgender individuals have been serving in the U.S. Military for decades, and in recent years, they have been permitted to do so openly, with no documented detriment to their fellow servicemembers, or to any unit or branch of service as a whole.

“It is interesting that a commander in chief who chose not to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces – according to some reports, in a manner that was dishonest and fraudulent – would seek to discharge brave Americans who have chosen to serve our country courageously and with honor, many in direct combat.

“Repeated studies have shown that the presence of transgender soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guard personnel have had no measurable impact on unit morale or effectiveness.

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“In the past century, we have seen our armed forces integrate Black soldiers, allow expanding roles for women – including in combat – and permit open service by gays and lesbians. In each of these cases, our military has only continued to grow and thrive. Seeking the proactive and deliberate discharge of transgender individuals currently serving, while the U.S. is engaged in active military missions in multiple areas of operation around the globe, will weaken – not strengthen – our national security, and belies the underlying thinking that drives this ill-conceived policy: An unwarranted hatred of the transgender community.

“In addition to the direct impact on the U.S. Armed Services, this policy sends a message to our transgender family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors that they are somehow less competent or qualified than others who are currently serving our nation’s highest calling. This is patently false.

“Phoenix Pride will continue to stand up for the rights of our transgender brothers, sisters and others to serve this country and to enjoy all of the rights, freedoms and opportunities that this nation guarantees to *all* of its citizens. We will not stand by and allow this brazen bigotry to go unchallenged, and we will remain steadfast to our goal of seeing that Justice and Equity are the unrestricted birthright of every American.”

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