



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 26, 2017

Contact: Jeremy M. Helfgot
J.M. Helfgot Communications
Mobile: (310) 413-3360
E-mail: jm@helfgot.com

PHOENIX PRIDE STATEMENT REGARDING
PRESIDENT TRUMP’S ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO
BAN MILITARY SERVICE BY TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

PHOENIX — Phoenix Pride, has issued the following statement in response to President Donald Trump’s statement (via Twitter) on July 26, 2017, concerning a ban on U.S. military service by transgender individuals:

“While Phoenix Pride is not a political organization, our mission to ‘empower, educate and support the Arizona LGBTQ Community’ compels us to speak up in defense of our transgender brothers, sisters, neighbors, family and friends, and especially those who bravely and selflessly serve our country in the U.S. Armed Forces.

“President Donald Trump’s tweet this morning proposing an all-out ban on transgender individuals serving ‘in any capacity in the U.S. Military’ is misguided, hateful and founded on a false premise that will only serve to increase hatred and intolerance toward transgender men and women.

“In his tweets this morning, President Trump asserted that the presence of transgender soldiers, sailors, airmen/women and Marines, would cause the U.S. Armed Forces to be ‘burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail.’ In fact, the opposite is true.

- more -

**PHOENIX PRIDE STATEMENT REGARDING TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS IN MILITARY
JULY 26, 2017
PAGE 2**

“A 2016 report from the RAND Corporation, commissioned by the Department of Defense under Defense Secretary Ash Carter, found that the fiscal and readiness impact of transgender individuals serving in the U.S. Military would be so minimal as to be negligible.

“Exactly 69 years ago today, on July 26, 1948, President Harry Truman issued Executive Order 9981, which ended the segregation of African Americans in the U.S. Military. The U.S. Armed Forces have continued to thrive in the time since, as has also been the case since the end of the ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ policy in 2011, the abolishment of which has allowed gay and lesbian individuals to serve openly in the U.S. Armed Services. There is absolutely no evidence to support any contention that service in the armed forces by transgender men and women has any greater impact.

“We are proud of the brave transgender men and women who currently serve openly in the U.S. Armed Forces, and those who still serve in silence for fear of reprisals, as well all those who came before them who had to hide or suppress their identity in order to serve our nation’s highest calling. We call on the Trump Administration to drop its pursuit of this harmful, hateful and shameful policy and to leave the current policy in place, which allows all patriotic Americans who choose to stand up and fight to defend the very freedoms which this misguided proposal aims to suppress.”

#