



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHOENIX PRIDE STATEMENT REGARDING
WHITE HOUSE ACTION TO BAN MILITARY SERVICE BY
TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

PHOENIX — **Phoenix Pride** has issued the following statement in response to the latest White House action to ban transgender men and women from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces:

“When President Trump tweeted one month ago about his intent to ban transgender patriots from serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, we collectively hoped that it was merely a public relations stunt to further feed the xenophobia and homophobia that has been visibly prevalent among many of his supporters.

“We watched as the senior commanders of each branch of the U.S. military, as well as the Defense Department’s civilian leadership, responded with surprise and trepidation, and rose up in defense of all brave men and women who serve to answer our nation’s highest calling. We held fast to the notion that this was mere spectacle, fueled by hate and ignorance, in the interest of fueling even greater national division.

“On Friday, those hopes evaporated as the President took this ill-conceived notion from tweet to policy.

“We know that there are currently thousands of transgender men and women serving in all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, and we have seen

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**PHOENIX PRIDE STATEMENT – ACTION ON TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS IN MILITARY
AUGUST 29, 2017
PAGE 2**

public statements from many of those individuals (as well as transgender veterans who have concluded their service) in stark opposition to this hateful, divisive and unfounded policy.

“Phoenix Pride is vehemently opposed to this flawed, misguided and hateful action that will only serve to weaken our national defense and further widen the political chasm that is plaguing our country. There is no basis in fact or empirical data to support this policy; It is grounded only in fear, ignorance, hackery and hate.

“Phoenix Pride stands for the rights of all of our citizens – regardless of gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation or any other characteristic – and we roundly condemn this latest policy move from the current Administration.

“We will join with likeminded organizations and individuals to fully and vocally oppose this action, and we encourage all who are affiliated with our organization to speak up in opposition to this harmful act.

“To quote one-time U.S. Senator from Arizona and Republican Nominee for President of the United States Barry Goldwater: ‘[Y]ou don’t need to be ‘straight’ to fight and die for your country. You just need to shoot straight.’”

For more information on Phoenix Pride, please visit www.phoenixpride.org.

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