



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHOENIX PRIDE STATEMENT REGARDING
U.S. DISTRICT COURT OPINION IN CHALLENGE TO
WHITE HOUSE POLICY BANNING TRANSGENDER
INDIVIDUALS FROM SERVING IN U.S. ARMED FORCES

PHOENIX — **Phoenix Pride** has issued the following statement in response to today's opinion issued by U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly:

“Today, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia affirmed in a judicial ruling what we already knew to be true: The President’s ill-conceived, ill-advised and hatefully-born ban on service in the U.S. Armed Forces by individuals who are transgender is both unconstitutional and wrong.

“In her ruling, Judge Kollar-Kotelly illustrates both the brazen violation of the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution and the practical – and personal – implications embodied in this aggressive attempt to further malign and marginalize the transgender community.

“Transgender men and women have served faithfully and bravely in the U.S. Armed Services for decades, many of them in combat, and their sacrifices and heroism have been shown to be on par with those of all who answer our

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nation’s highest calling: That of service in the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, United States Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard.

“Phoenix Pride stands strongly in support of the transgender men and women who currently serve, have previously served and who may yet seek to serve in the U.S. Military, and we are gratified to see the Court take a strong stand for granting equal rights and protections to these patriotic individuals. We will continue to follow the relevant case as it makes its way through the judicial process, and we will remain both vigilant and vocal in the face of this and other harmful policy actions that seek to diminish the rights of any individual, purely on the basis of their gender identity or expression.”

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

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