

Resolution on Open Service of Transgender Members of the Armed Forces and for Improved Health Services of Transgender Military Veterans

Text as adopted by the DPCA, 17 May 2019

Proposed by Martha McDevitt Pugh (DA Netherlands) and Joe Smallhoover (DA France).

WHEREAS on July 26, 2017, President Trump announced via Twitter that the United States Government would reverse the existing policy of allowing transgender service members to serve openly in order to implement a ban on transgender people from serving in the Armed Forces;

WHEREAS President Trump's ban on transgender members of the Armed Forces targets and stigmatizes a whole class of people;

WHEREAS the Department of Defense has failed to provide evidence *that* the existing policy has impaired morale, unit readiness, or unit cohesion.

WHEREAS all five military Chiefs of Staff have testified publicly that the existing policy has had no adverse effect on military readiness;

WHEREAS on August 1, 2017, fifty-six retired generals and admirals released a statement affirming, "This proposed ban, if implemented, would cause significant disruptions, deprive the military of mission-critical talent, and compromise the integrity of transgender troops who would be forced to live a lie, as well as *their* non-transgender peers who would be forced to choose between reporting their comrades or disobeying policy"

WHEREAS the Department of Defense report from 2018 falsely asserts there is "considerable scientific uncertainty" regarding the efficacy of transition-related care;

WHEREAS there is a global medical consensus that such care is effective, safe, and reliable

WHEREAS over 15,000 transgender people are serving in the military today;

WHEREAS transgender service members have served openly since 2016;

WHEREAS gender dysphoria is not the result of a personal decision, but rather, is a medical condition which can result from biological differences present at birth;

WHEREAS the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and three former military Surgeons General each have affirmed the medical efficacy of transition-related care and have expressed opposition to President Trump's discriminatory ban;

WHEREAS a 2016 study by the RAND Corporation found that allowing transgender Americans to serve openly in the Armed Forces would "have minimal impact on readiness and health care costs" and "little or no impact on unit cohesion, operational effectiveness or readiness";

WHEREAS the decision to prohibit transgender people from serving in the military is scientifically and medically unfounded, unjust, and morally reprehensible;

WHEREAS 18 nations allow transgender people to serve openly and effectively in their armed forces;

WHEREAS an estimated 134,000 or more American veterans are transgender;

WHEREAS the ban on transgender people *obstructs* the efforts of the armed services to maintain an adequate volunteer force by limiting recruitment and reducing existing forces. The policy therefore not only weakens our armed forces but also deprives young Americans who want to serve the nation of training and a viable career path.

WHEREAS transgender veterans face difficulties obtaining updated service records which respect their privacy, and which prevents them from receiving VA coverage of necessary medical procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad:

strongly opposes President Trump's discriminatory ban on transgender members of the Armed Forces;

rejects the flawed scientific and medical claims upon which it is based;

calls for the revocation, with retroactive effect, of the discriminatory ban on transgender members serving in the military

calls on the Department of Defense to make, produce and publish guidance for transgender individuals on how to update information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and on the DD214 Military Discharge Record;

strongly urges that clinical treatment methods as outlined in the World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care including psychotherapy, changes in gender expression and role, hormone therapy, or surgery, or any combination thereof be made available to those who have served;

commits to provide our members with a standard statement they can use to contact their representative to urge them to reverse the transgender military ban by voting to pass HR 124, against the reinstatement of President Trump's ban on transgender members in the Armed Forces, and replace it with an inclusive policy that allows qualified transgender Americans to enlist and serve in the Armed Forces;

urges those members of Democrats Abroad who are veterans to ask the Department of Defense not to implement the transgender military ban; and

strongly urges our DNC members to communicate in their caucuses and other DNC work that DA expects Democrats in Congress to support HR 124 and the companion Senate bill.

