

PRESS RELEASE
Transgender Education Association
of the Greater Washington Area
July 26, 2017

The president's tweet today announcing a blanket prohibition on transgender Americans from serving the nation we love is needlessly discriminatory and dishonors the selfless service of the thousands of transgender people who have served with distinction for 242 years, including the countless number who serve here in the greater Washington DC area today.

The question is not whether transgender people can or will serve. They have, they are, and they will serve. The question is whether patriotic Americans who have volunteered to lay down their lives in defense of this great nation will be subject to pointless discrimination by the very government they serve.

A blanket exclusion of transgender people ignores several important facts. It ignores the fact that transgender people serve at nearly double rate of non-transgender people. It ignores the fact that the population that can meet Army recruiting standards is shrinking, leaving the Army challenged to make it's recruiting goal for fiscal year 2017, according to the commanding general of US Army Recruiting Command. It ignores the fact that many transgender people do not opt for medical intervention, rendering moot the argument that their treatment is too expensive for the richest nation in the world. It ignores the fact that those who have had medical intervention typically require only minimal maintenance that has no impact on deployment. It ignores recent examples of trans service members who have been able to serve openly, with the full support of their chains of command and their comrades and have served with distinction often under hostile fire. These troops did not cause a "disruption," they caused their units to be successful because a trans troop wasn't a big deal and everyone just got on with their jobs.

There is no military, budgetary or medical justification for a policy that accomplishes nothing more than to discriminate against American heroes.