



**Statement of the National LGBT Bar Association (LGBT Bar), National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), National Bar Association (NBA), National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL), and the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) in Opposition to President Trump’s Trans\* Military Ban Directive**

**Washington, DC** – The below-signed diversity bar associations unequivocally and without reserve denounce the current administration’s recent decision to halt the service of transgender troops in the US armed services.

On Friday, August 25, President Trump issued a memorandum directing the military to cease with the Obama-era instruction allowing for open transgender service. Trump’s directive prevents the military from recruiting trans\* individuals, providing necessary medical treatment to those currently serving, and may lead to the discharge of as many as 15,000 active duty service members.

At a time when the US government seeks to increase military enrollment and the President has announced plans to send additional troops to Afghanistan, it is beyond reason that the US armed services would deny anyone willing and able to serve the opportunity to do so. To deny them based on their gender identity is both discriminatory and illogical.

The US armed services currently has an estimated 15,000 transgender members serving and another 134,000 veterans. These individuals risk their lives every day for the freedom that we as citizens hold so dear. The lack of recognition for all they can and will do for us is unjustifiable. We will never have a true military reflective of our country until all those willing and able to serve are welcome in their ranks without regard to gender identity, sexual orientation, race, sex, religion, or ethnicity.

National LGBT Bar Association  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
National Bar Association  
National Association of Women Lawyers  
Hispanic National Bar Association