

By: Reynolds

H.C.R. No. 156

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Transgender service members have served openly in  
2 the U.S. military since 2016, bravely defending our nation, but the  
3 Trump administration is implementing a new de facto ban on  
4 transgender troops; and

5           WHEREAS, Years of research and consideration by the Pentagon  
6 and the secretary of defense guided the decision to officially  
7 allow transgender people to serve in the military, and today, our  
8 armed forces include nearly 15,000 transgender troops around the  
9 world, in all occupational specialties; in 2018, all four service  
10 chiefs, as well as the incoming commandant of the Coast Guard,  
11 testified to the U.S. Congress that transgender service members do  
12 not impair the cohesion of military units and that they had not seen  
13 any discipline, morale, or unit readiness problems; and

14           WHEREAS, Previously, 56 retired generals and admirals  
15 released a statement warning that the ban "would cause significant  
16 disruptions, deprive the military of mission-critical talent, and  
17 compromise the integrity of transgender troops who would be forced  
18 to live a lie, as well as non-transgender peers who would be forced  
19 to choose between reporting their comrades or disobeying policy";  
20 and

21           WHEREAS, Six former United States surgeons general issued a  
22 statement to "underscore that transgender troops are as medically  
23 fit as their non-transgender peers and that there is no medically  
24 valid reason, including a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, to exclude

1 them from military service or to limit their access to medically  
2 necessary care"; the American Medical Association, the American  
3 Psychological Association, and the American Psychiatric  
4 Association have all expressed opposition to the ban, which is  
5 based on flawed scientific and medical assertions; and

6 WHEREAS, A 2016 RAND study concluded that allowing  
7 transgender people to serve would have "minimal impact" on Pentagon  
8 readiness and health care costs and "little or no impact on unit  
9 cohesion, operational effectiveness, or readiness"; and

10 WHEREAS, Historians relate that transgender soldiers fought  
11 in the American Revolution and the Civil War, among them hundreds of  
12 individuals assigned female gender at birth who enlisted and served  
13 in the military as men; one well-known example, Union Army soldier  
14 Albert Cashier, fought in the siege of Vicksburg and other battles  
15 and continued to live as a transgender man after the war; and

16 WHEREAS, The ban on transgender troops is a policy dictated  
17 by prejudice rather than sound, considered analysis of the needs of  
18 our military and its personnel, and in an era when recruitment is a  
19 challenge, it is particularly reprehensible to bar and eject  
20 qualified individuals who want to serve our country; now,  
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas  
23 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to oppose the  
24 transgender military ban; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
26 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
27 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of

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1 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the  
2 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that  
3 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a  
4 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.