August 2, 2017

The Honorable James Mattis  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

The Honorable Elaine Duke  
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

General Joseph Dunford  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
9999 Joint Staff Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20318-9999

Admiral Paul Zukunft  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard  
2703 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave SE  
Stop 7000  
Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Secretary Mattis, Acting Secretary Duke, General Dunford, and Admiral Zukunft:

We are writing to you regarding statements the President made on July 26, 2017 about the ability of transgender personnel to serve in the United States Armed Forces. We appreciate recent statements that no official policy changes have yet been made. We also appreciate commitments to treat all service members with dignity and respect.

However, we are concerned about how the President’s statements may impact those currently serving our country in uniform. We strongly believe that any person selfless enough to volunteer to serve their country in the Armed Forces, and who meets the standards of entry, should be afforded that opportunity.

As the Administration considers this policy, we strongly urge that you advocate against implementing official discrimination of any sort, which we believe runs contrary to the civil rights of Americans, creates an unwelcome distraction to our national security missions, and diminishes morale throughout the Armed Forces.

Sincerely,

Tom Udall

Bill Nelson

Angus King