

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 2, 2017

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

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

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

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

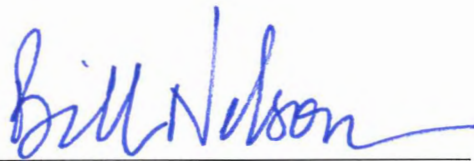
Dear Secretary Mattis, Acting Secretary Duke, General Dunford, and Admiral Zukunft:

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.

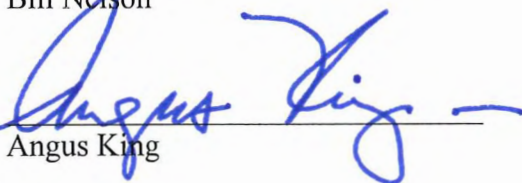
Sincerely,



Bill Nelson



Tom Udall



Angus King