

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND**

BROCK STONE, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

DONALD J. TRUMP, et al.,

Defendants.

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) Civil Action No. 17-cv-2459 (MJG)
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**DECLARATION OF DEBORAH LEE JAMES
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

I, Deborah Lee James, declare as follows:

1. I served as the Secretary of the United States Air Force ("USAF") from December 20, 2013 to January 20, 2017.

2. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Comparative Area Studies from Duke University (1979), and a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Columbia University (1981). From 1983 until 1993, I worked as a professional staff member for the Armed Services Committee of the United States House of Representatives, including as a senior advisor to the Subcommittee for Military Personnel and Compensation. From 1993 to 1998, I served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, responsible for advising the Secretary of Defense on all matters pertaining to roughly 1.8 million National Guard and Reserve personnel. I then held a variety of senior positions at Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), including as President of the Technical and Engineering Sector overseeing more than 8,000 employees.

3. As Secretary of the USAF, I functioned as the chief executive of the Department of the Air Force, with the authority to conduct all of its affairs, subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Secretary of Defense. As Secretary, I had comprehensive oversight

responsibility for (i) the Department of the Air Force's annual budget, (ii) overseeing the organization, training, supplying, equipping and mobilization of USAF personnel, and (iii) overseeing the construction and maintenance of military equipment, buildings, and structures. In connection with my personnel-related oversight responsibilities, I administered the development and implementation of recruitment, retention, and medical policies for active duty and reserve USAF personnel. Among the people who directly reported to me was the Chief of Staff of the USAF, the most senior uniformed USAF officer.

4. As Secretary, I was responsible for supervising the Department of the Air Force's participation in a working group convened by the Department of Defense in 2015 to identify the practical issues related to transgender Americans serving openly in the Armed Forces, and to develop an implementation plan that addressed those issues with the goal of maximizing military readiness (the "Working Group").

5. Based on the Working Group's analysis and recommendations, the Department of Defense announced in June 2016 that it would begin to allow transgender people to serve openly in the Armed Forces.

6. On July 26, 2017, President Donald Trump issued a statement that transgender individuals will not be permitted to serve in any capacity in the Armed Forces. On August 25, 2017, President Trump issued a memorandum to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security to reverse the policy adopted in June 2016 that permitted military service by openly transgender persons. The President's memorandum stated that the military would return to the pre-June 2016 policy on March 23, 2018.

7. Based on my experience regarding military personnel, and in particular personnel and operations of the USAF, the President's announced decision to ban openly transgender

people from serving in the military effective March 23, 2018 is presently harming transgender people currently serving in the military in several significant respects.

8. Airmen are typically deployed for periods of time that exceed several months, and planning for a deployment begins several months in advance of the deployment. Commanders in charge of overseeing deployments must take into account the certainty with which Airmen will be available for the entire length of a deployment when making assignment decisions.

9. Given the President's announcement that transgender service members will be subject to separation from the military beginning March 23, 2018, commanders cannot rely on transgender Airmen being able to complete deployments that continue beyond that date. Transgender Airmen with deployment terms that extend beyond March 2018 will thus lose opportunities for assignments because command will not be able to determine with certainty that transgender Airmen will be present for the entire duration of the deployment. In addition to negatively impacting individual Airmen, this uncertainty harms USAF readiness and capabilities where commanders are not able to make assignments based solely on the capabilities and experiences of those under their command.

10. Even outside the deployment context, transgender Airmen will lose out on assignments, opportunities, and experiences they would otherwise receive but for the President's announcement that they will be subject to separation in March 2018. Commanders will be reluctant to invest time and money on training transgender Airmen for important or significant assignments or tasks where commanders believe the Airmen will be expected to leave the USAF in the near future.

11. In addition, the President's announced ban on transgender people serving in the military creates a sub-class of service members, placing transgender people on unequal footing

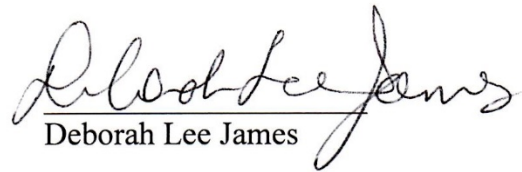
as compared to their non-transgender peers for reasons having nothing to do with their capabilities or past performance, and suggesting that transgender Airmen are unworthy of their comrades' trust and support. A lack of trust among service members is deeply concerning, as trust and respect throughout the chain of command is essential to promote military effectiveness. Thus, in addition to causing present harm to transgender Airmen, the President's ban will have a deleterious effect on the USAF's effectiveness and capabilities as well.

12. The President's announced ban is also anathema to the ethos of the military in general, and in particular the USAF. In the USAF, individual Airmen are given assignments and receive commendations and promotions on the basis of their individual merit and skill set. The USAF, and the military in general, are weakened when this fundamental building block of their identities is fractured through suggesting that service members should be judged based on characteristics having nothing to do with their ability to perform their job.

13. Finally, I am not aware of any instance – before or after June 2016 – where a transgender person seeking to join the military was granted a waiver to the ban on service of openly transgender individuals. Even if a transgender person were to seek a waiver at this time, doing so would be futile in light of the President's order making transgender service members subject to separation beginning in March 2018.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: October 21, 2017


Deborah Lee James