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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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******JOINT STATEMENT******

*San Francisco Human Rights Commission and San Francisco Veterans Affairs
Commission Condemn Military Transgender Ban*

(San Francisco, CA) - The San Francisco Human Rights Commission issued the following statement in response to President Trump's ban on transgender people serving in the US military.

"The San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) and the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission (VAC) condemn President Trump's decision to ban transgender people from serving in the US military. The decision is rooted in transphobia, and discriminates against military service members on the basis of gender identity. It puts at risk the health and safety of the thousands of transgender people currently serving in the armed forces.

The announcement, which reverses an Obama administration decision to allow transgender people to openly serve in the US military, is the latest in a series of decisions that undermines transgender rights. The Trump administration previously rescinded protections for transgender students in public schools and rolled back data collection on LGBT older adults.

The HRC and VAC stand in solidarity with transgender service members across the country and around the world. We remain committed to fighting transphobia and empowering transgender and gender non-conforming communities. The HRC's current work in the area of transgender rights includes strategic partnerships with community-based organizations to provide legal and support services to transgender people, with an emphasis on transgender women of color. The HRC is also collaborating with SFPD and the Sheriff's Department to strengthen policies for transgender people in custody. This work builds on the Agency's previous advocacy for transgender healthcare, non-discrimination protections, and culturally competent services."

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