

EDGE Boston, MA, USA

RNC Sides with Trump Ban of Transgender People in Military

Associated Press

Friday Feb 2, 2018

The Republican National Committee is siding with President Donald Trump on his order to bar transgender individuals from serving in the U.S. military.

In a resolution passed at its annual winter meeting Friday, the committee voted to support Trump's August demand that military recruitment policy consider transgender as "a disqualifying psychological and physical" condition

Trump's order has suffered legal setbacks. Three federal courts have ruled against the ban, prompting the RNC to take the position standing with Trump.

An effect of one court ruling was that the military would be required to allow transgender people to enlist beginning Jan. 1.

The issue has divided the GOP. Some Republicans in the Senate, including military veterans Joni Ernst of Iowa and John McCain of Arizona, have objected to Trump's ban.

The Defense Department is undertaking a review of recruiting policies, a process expected to be completed in the coming months. RNC member Bob Kabel said he expects Trump to abide by the recommendations in the Pentagon's review.

While the resolution states the committee supports Trump's "intent and prerogative to strengthen our military with sound personnel policies," it also urges the Justice Department to seek U.S. Supreme Court action.

It's customary for the RNC to pass resolutions supporting the president, especially when policies are challenged in court. There was no public debate on the measure during the RNC's general session Friday.

https://boston.edgemedianetwork.com/news/national/news//255516/rnc_sides_with_trump_ban_of_transgender_people_in_military

ThinkProgress, DC, USA

Republican National Committee endorses ban on transgender military service

The resolution called being trans "a disqualifying psychological and physical" condition.

Zack Ford | Feb 2, 2018, 3:18 pm

On Friday, the Republican National Committee [approved a resolution](#) supporting President Trump's efforts to prevent transgender people from serving in the military. Calling being transgender "a disqualifying psychological and physical" condition, the resolution urges the Department of Justice to seek the Supreme Court's intervention if need be.

Last summer, before President Trump [decreed on Twitter](#) that he would be banning trans people from the military, House Republicans attempted to implement a ban through legislation. Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-MO) proposed the ban as an amendment to the defense spending bill on the House floor, but [it was narrowly defeated](#) 209–214.

Trans people, including those currently serving and those seeking to soon enlist, challenged Trump's ban in four different cases. Four different judges in four different jurisdictions, as well as two U.S. Courts of Appeal, [all ruled against the ban](#) as being blatantly discriminatory. In late December, the Trump administration [stopped fighting for its ban](#), and as of January 1, individuals who are openly transgender can enlist in the military for the first time. [Several already have](#).

The RNC resolution suggests this change in the status quo would not deter Republican lawmakers from kicking all trans servicemembers out.

The Democratic National Committee was quick to respond. LGBTQ Media Director Lucas Acosta released a statement Friday calling the resolution "hateful" because of the way it "only serves to subvert and further demean hardworking men and women who want to serve their country in the most honorable way they can."

"The RNC has proven they are more than willing to deny basic rights to LGBTQ Americans all while accepting money from an accused sexual predator and funneling money to an alleged child molester," Acosta said, referring to the [many women who have accused Trump](#) of sexual assault and the RNC's support of [Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore \(R\)](#).

<https://thinkprogress.org/rnc-transgender-military-8a9098dd42b8/>

Washington Blade, DC, USA

February 2, 2018 at 8:06 pm EST | by Chris Johnson

RNC approves resolution backing Trump's transgender military ban

The Republican National Committee has approved a resolution in favor of President Trump's effort to ban transgender people from the U.S. military, according to the Associated Press.

The RNC approved the resolution backing at its annual winter meeting, which this year is taking place in West Virginia. Trump delivered remarks at the event this week before departing for Mar-a-Lago for the weekend.

According to the [Associated Press](#), the RNC voted to support Trump's directive instructing the military to consider being transgender "a disqualifying psychological and physical" condition.

The resolution reportedly says the RNC supports Trump's "intent and prerogative to strengthen our military with sound personnel policies," but also urges the Justice Department to seek U.S. Supreme Court action.

According to the AP, it's a common practice for the RNC to pass resolutions supporting the president's policy, especially what that policy is challenged in court. There was no public debate on the measure during the RNC's general session Friday, the AP reported.

Lucas Acosta, director of LGBTQ media for the Democratic National Committee, said approval of the resolution was par for the course for Republicans and the Trump White House.

"Over the last month alone, the Trump-Pence administration has rolled back significant protections for the LGBTQ community, ripped apart families and allowed health care workers to discriminate access to medical care," Acosta said. "Today, the RNC decided to go even further and pass a hateful resolution, which only serves to subvert and further demean hardworking men and women who want to serve their country in the most honorable way they can."

After Trump first announced via Twitter in June he would ban transgender people from the military "in any capacity," he followed that up with a directive to the Pentagon barring them from service or enlistment and denying payment for troops who need gender reassignment surgery.

But as a result of multiple court orders following litigation from LGBT groups, Trump's transgender ban was put on hold.

Nonetheless, the Pentagon is still expected to produce a report for Trump on transgender

military service. As outlined in Trump's directive, a panel will present recommendations by the end of February to Defense Secretary James Mattis, who will then advise Trump for new policy on March 23.

LGBT groups harangued the RNC for approving a resolution, calling it an attack on members of the U.S. armed forces.

Mara Keisling, executive director for the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement the only disruption the military endured as a result of transgender people was Trump's attempt to remove them.

"The fact is that we've shown, both through studies and experience, that open service by transgender troops is good for the military," Keisling said. "We look forward to the courts settling this once and for all so that transgender troops can focus on protecting our country without having to worry about their job security every day."

Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO of GLAAD, said in a statement the RNC's approval of the resolution demonstrates the impact of Trump's anti-LGBT policy.

"President Trump's bigoted proposal to purge qualified military personnel is in direct contradiction to the will of the American people and what's best for our nation's security," Ellis said. "The fact that the RNC is siding with blatant discrimination over supporting the rights of brave Americans to serve our nation displays how toxic and deeply rooted the Trump Administration's anti-LGBTQ ideology has become."

Ashley Broadway-Mack, president of the American Military Partner Association, gave no quarter in her assessment of the RNC resolution.

"Shame on the Republican National Committee for slandering the brave transgender men and women who serve our nation," Broadway-Mack said. "Not only did the RNC just degrade active duty service members, but they also maligned countless military families across the country with family members who also happen to be transgender. This is a disgusting, vile attempt to play politics with the lives of our military families."

<https://www.washingtonblade.com/2018/02/02/rnc-sides-trump-transgender-military-ban/>

Metro Weekly, DC, USA

RNC approves resolution supporting Trump's transgender military ban

Resolution calls being transgender "a disqualifying psychological and physical" condition

By John Riley on February 2, 2018

The Republican National Committee has passed a resolution supporting Trump's attempts to bar transgender individuals from serving in the U.S. military.

On Friday, at its annual winter meeting in Washington, the committee approved a resolution expressing support for Trump's demand that military recruiters consider transgender as "a disqualifying psychological and physical" condition, according to the [Associated Press](#).

The resolution states that the RNC supports Trump's "intent and prerogative to strengthen our military with sound personnel policies," and asks the Justice Department to appeal [recent court decisions](#) halting the president's proposed ban to the Supreme Court.

While objectionable, the RNC resolution is not unusual, as the committee typically passes resolutions to support a president of their own party, particularly when the administration's policies are challenged in court.

Trump first [floated the idea](#) of banning all active-duty transgender service members last July via Twitter, and subsequently began directing Pentagon officials to study how best to implement such a ban. But LGBTQ advocates filed four separate lawsuits challenging the ban as unconstitutional and discriminatory.

In all four of those cases, federal courts have [halted the ban from being implemented](#), thereby allowing transgender military personnel to keep serving and [allowing transgender recruits to enlist](#) starting on Jan. 1. Thus far, at least [eight transgender individuals](#) have attempted to enlist in the Air Force alone.

The Department of Defense is currently reviewing its recruitment policies and is expected to issue recommendations on whether, in the view of high-ranking Pentagon officials, transgender people can serve openly in the military without hurting morale or military readiness.

Many Republicans have embraced the view of transgender people adopted by President Trump and social conservatives that being transgender is a mental illness or disability, and therefore *all* transgender people are unqualified to serve in the military. Others, including Jamie Shupe, a transgender military veteran, [argue](#) that while admitting transgender individuals who are suffering from gender dysphoria would negatively affect military readiness, other transgender individuals would be perfectly capable of serving without incident.

The Democratic National Committee blasted the RNC's resolution in a statement.

“Over the last month alone, the Trump-Pence administration has rolled back significant protections for the LGBTQ community, ripped apart families, and [allowed health care workers to discriminate](#) [in] access to medical care,” DNC LGBTQ Media Director Lucas Acosta said. “Today, the RNC decided to go even further and pass a hateful resolution, which only serves to subvert and further demean hardworking men and women who want to serve their country in the most honorable way they can.

“The RNC has proven they are more than willing to deny basic rights to LGBTQ Americans all while accepting money from an accused sexual predator and funneling money to an alleged child molester,” Acosta said, referring to [allegations of sexual misconduct](#) against former RNC Finance Chair Steve Wynn and [Roy Moore](#), who recently lost an election for the U.S. Senate in Alabama.

“Every American deserves respect and Democrats will not rest until every American is given the opportunity, respect, and rights they deserve under the Constitution,” Acosta concluded.

Sarah Kate Ellis, the president and CEO of GLAAD, issued her own statement condemning the resolution.

“President Trump's bigoted proposal to purge qualified military personnel is in direct contradiction to the will of the American people and what's best for our nation's security,” Ellis said. “The fact that the RNC is siding with blatant discrimination over supporting the rights of brave Americans to serve our nation displays how toxic and deeply rooted the Trump administration's anti-LGBTQ ideology has become.”

Gregory T. Angelo, the president of the Log Cabin Republicans, also slammed the resolution.

“In addition to being unnecessary and inconsequential, this resolution undercuts the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security by attempting to preempt their pending recommendations on this issue,” Angelo said in a statement. “Log Cabin Republicans continues to stand with the transgender individuals who put their lives on the line to keep America free.”

<http://www.metroweekly.com/2018/02/rnc-approves-resolution-supporting-trumps-transgender-military-ban/>