

changes in a person’s “**gender marker**” alter sex-determining **human DNA**, which exists in every cell of a person’s body, even before birth.

“Going beyond disrespect, Obama/Biden transgender policies fail to show compassion for persons diagnosed with gender dysphoria.

“In 2018, a Pentagon panel of experts produced for then-Defense Secretary **James Mattis** a detailed report on costs and consequences of implementing Obama-era transgender policies.

“Among other things, the resulting [Defense Department Report](#), which CMR summarized [here](#), found that medical costs for the **994** active-duty service members diagnosed with gender dysphoria increased **300%**, accounting for **30,000** mental health visits.

“What is worse, during the time Obama-era policies were in effect, these individuals were found to be **eight to nine times** more likely to attempt **suicide**.

“Secretary Austin’s endorsement of [International Transgender Day of Visibility](#) fails to recognize that gender dysphoria is a serious psychological condition that requires compassion and competent medical care, not politicized one-way treatments.

“President Biden’s most important responsibility is to strengthen the armed forces and to lead with sound judgement as **Commander-in-Chief**. Instead, President Biden and Secretary of Defense Austin are once again surrendering the military to “woke” activists who are solely interested in promoting their agenda, not national security or the best interests of our nation.”

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*The Center for Military Readiness is an independent, non-partisan, public policy organization that reports on and analyses military social issues. CMR President **Elaine Donnelly**, who founded CMR in 1993, can be reached at **734/464-9430**. More information is available on the organization’s website, www.cmrlink.org.*