



Center for Military Readiness



Promoting high standards and sound priorities for our military men and women.

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Irresponsible Senate Move re Transgenders Would Harm Military Readiness

*On September 11, Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Susan Collins (R-ME) announced their co-sponsorship of [an amendment](#) to the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which would force the armed forces to retain and recruit persons who suffer from a psychological condition called **gender dysphoria**. The following comments may be attributed to, **Elaine Donnelly** President of the **Center for Military Readiness**:*

“It is regrettable that two senators who have consistently demanded social experiments in the military, while disavowing negative consequences of their own misguided policy demands, would try to cut off at the knees both **Secretary of Defense James Mattis** and **President Donald Trump** on an important national defense issue: transgenders in the military.

“Senator Gillibrand keeps raising alarms about increased sexual assaults in the military, which are of concern to everyone. But she cares nothing about military women living in close-quarters who are being forced to accept biological males in female-designated showers and private facilities. Nor do the senators care about doctors and nurses being forced to approve or participate in treatments that many consider contrary to medical ethics or personal convictions.

“Taking a **‘Ready, Fire, Aim’** and **‘Don’t Confuse Us with the Facts’** approach, Senators Collins and Gillibrand demand that Secretary Mattis produce a report that fits their expectations, even before confirmation of the official nominated to head the Pentagon office designated to handle the issue.

“The senators’ amendment implies that the military is nothing more than an equal opportunity (EO) employer. **On the contrary, there is no constitutional right to serve in the military.** The armed forces exist to defend the country, and being “qualified” for military service involves more than personal desire or physical strength.

“**Gender dysphoria** is one of several psychological conditions, such as **anorexia nervosa, bulimia, chronic air- or sea-sickness, or claustrophobia**, which affect personal readiness to deploy. Transgenders can serve our country in many ways, but prolonged absences

associated with expensive, gender-denying “transition plans,” hormone therapies, and surgeries make them one of many groups that do not meet military qualification requirements.

“It seems that the senators want to rely on Obama holdovers and misinformation produced in consultation with **LGBT** activist groups, including the often-quoted **2016 RAND Report**. CMR has prepared a two-page CMR Summary citing several reasons why this pre-determined polemic (not a “study”) cannot be considered a credible source for understanding negative effects of Obama-era policies:

[Restore Military Strength and Pre-Obama Transgender Mandates](#)

“On August 25, **President Donald Trump** supported the troops by formally directing the **Secretary of Defense** to reinstate policies regarding transgenders in the military that were in effect before June 2016. The [Presidential Memorandum](#) continued Secretary Mattis’ suspension of Obama orders to recruit transgenders, and halted the use of DoD funds for related surgical procedures.

“At least fifteen DoD and military service directives, instructions, and training manuals, which the Center for Military Readiness analyzed in a 27-page [CMR Special Report](#), would seriously undermine readiness while offering **no benefits in terms of combat effectiveness**.

“**The Senate Armed Services Committee** has had **zero public hearings** on these controversial directives, all of which endorsed the reality-denying, unscientific LGBT delusion that gender is “assigned” at birth and can be altered by changing a person’s appearance and “gender marker.”

“According to [leading experts](#), human “sex change” is [biologically impossible](#). Gender is identified at birth, not assigned, and every person’s gender-determining DNA chromosomes exist in every cell of his or her body.

As stated in the Presidential Memorandum, all military personnel policies should improve military effectiveness, lethality, and unit cohesion, and not put unnecessary burdens on military resources. **The President’s initiative to return to pre-Obama policies deserves full support.**

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The Center for Military Readiness is an independent public policy organization that reports on and analyzes military/social issues. More information, including official documents linked in this summary, is available on the CMR website, www.cmrlink.org. To arrange an interview with Elaine Donnelly, call 734/464-9430.