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Does 1-2, Jane Doe, and Equality California*

20 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
21 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

22 AIDEN STOCKMAN; NICOLAS
TALBOTT; TAMASYN REEVES;
23 JAQUICE TATE; JOHN DOES 1-2;
24 JANE DOE; and EQUALITY
CALIFORNIA,

25 Plaintiffs,

26 v.

27 DONALD J. TRUMP, et al.

28 Defendants.

CASE NO. 5:17-cv-01799-JGB-KKx

**DECLARATION OF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], A.K.A. JOHN DOE 2, IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION**

1 I, John Doe 2, declare as follows:

2 1. I currently serve as an E-4 Specialist (SPC) Operator-Maintainer in
3 the United States Army. I am 20 years old. I am transgender.

4 **Early Life**

5 2. Growing up, my family was not wealthy. I knew they would not be
6 able to help pay for my college education. I knew that if I wanted an education, I
7 would need to find my own opportunity. In the 8th grade, I decided that the United
8 States military was my opportunity. I looked forward to joining the military not
9 only because it provided educational and training opportunities, but because I
10 viewed it as a meaningful career path.

11 3. As a high school sophomore, I started speaking with recruiters from
12 every branch of our armed forces. I felt drawn to the Army because they gave me
13 their honest perception about what was good and what was hard about serving in
14 the military. I felt that I could find both opportunity and camaraderie in the Army.

15 4. At age 17, with the consent of my parents, I enlisted in the Army. By
16 the time I turned 18, I was in basic training.

17 **Military Career and Compensation**

18 5. I am 20 years old and I have been serving in the United States military
19 since July 20, 2015. I worked my way up from Private, to Private 2nd Class, to
20 Private First Class and then earned an early promotion waiver to become an Army
21 Specialist, E-4 Grade, in March 2017. E-4 Specialists earn the same compensation
22 as an Army Corporal. My technical expertise pertains to the operations,
23 diagnostics, and maintenance of the multichannel communications systems
24 necessary for the Army to make real-time strategic and tactical decisions. My
25 position requires Secret-level Security Clearance.

26 6. In my two years of service, I have received two Colonel Coins of
27 Excellence. I received my second coin in August 2017.

28

1 7. For the next step in my career, I plan on becoming a Criminal
2 Investigations Division (“CID”) officer, with a focus on forensics. I have done
3 significant research on the CID and have expressed an interest in joining to several
4 CID officers. Not everyone can qualify or will be accepted as a CID officer. You
5 must: (a) serve two years; (b) be 21 years of age; and (c) have scored a sufficient
6 score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (“ASVAB”). I have the
7 service time and the ASVAB score. I will meet the CID requirements when I turn
8 21 next year.

9 8. I also plan on taking the Basic Leadership Course (“BLC”). Once I
10 complete BLC, I can be promoted to a Non-Commissioned Officer. After I
11 complete the BLC and the CID course, I can be ranked up to Sergeant. With a
12 higher rank, I can expect to receive increased compensation and benefits to support
13 myself and my family.

14 9. I currently earn \$19,000 a year, with an additional \$1,300 per month
15 housing allowance and a \$300 per month food allowance. I also receive an annual
16 allowance for my uniforms, which are my work clothes.

17 10. I also receive health benefits for me and my wife through TRICARE.
18 TRICARE covers primary care, emergency care, health specialists, vision care and
19 dental care.

20 11. If I continue serving in the Army as planned, I expect to receive
21 retirement benefits.

22 12. My wife depends on the income I bring into the household from
23 serving in the Army for housing, food and basic necessities. My wife also depends
24 on my health benefits.

25 13. The Army affords me and my wife with certain educational benefits.
26 I could take security-related classes at a college to earn additional security
27 qualifications for my work in the Army. Or, I might one day use the G.I. bill to
28 fund a college education. The military also pays for a certain number of college

1 classes for a service member’s spouse. My wife is currently working toward
2 obtaining her degree in Art.

3 **Serving My Country as a Soldier who is Transgender**

4 14. I have always felt different. However, I did not always have the
5 words to describe how I was different. I knew that I felt out of place in female-
6 specific places (restrooms, etc.), but I did not know what that might mean.

7 15. In my junior year of high school, I learned the term “transgender.” I
8 began researching transgender identity and quickly realized that the term described
9 me. I knew that I was transgender.

10 16. In high school, telling others that I was transgender felt impossible. I
11 did not know if I would be accepted, even by my own family. I felt forced to hide
12 my true identity.

13 17. Then, I joined the Army. The Army felt so very different from high
14 school. In the Army, the mission takes priority, and the cohesion of the unit is
15 valued above all else. And, the Army is so diverse. Even in my unit, there are
16 white, black and brown soldiers, people who come from small towns and inner-
17 cities, and people who hold a wide range of political views and religious beliefs.
18 When we are in uniform, none of that matters. In uniform, only the mission and
19 the unit matters.

20 18. The Army was the first time I told anyone that I am a transgender
21 man. I was in basic training, on a bus. Some of my Army buddies were talking
22 about how the government might lift the ban on transgender people openly serving
23 in the military. I volunteered for the first time that I am transgender. No one
24 reacted negatively. Instead, they expressed support. Simply put, the fact that I
25 came out as transgender did not seem to make a big difference to anyone.

26 19. In June 2016, Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter announced that the
27 military was lifting its ban on transgender people serving openly. When I heard
28

1 this, I felt overwhelming relief. Finally, I could be true to myself and still serve the
2 country that I love.

3 20. Shortly after the lifting of the ban on open service by transgender
4 soldiers was announced, I came out to my chain of command. Like my friends
5 from basic training, they supported me.

6 21. I researched the new policies and related guidance. I understood that
7 to begin transitioning to my true gender, the first step was to receive a formal
8 diagnosis of “gender dysphoria.” I met with my base’s mental health evaluator,
9 and was diagnosed as having gender dysphoria. I worked with an Army doctor to
10 develop my medical transition plan, providing me with medically-necessary
11 treatment. Like my friends and my commanders, my doctors supported me.

12 22. I started taking testosterone. I met with my commander and my
13 doctors, and my team approved chest surgery, which is sometimes called “top
14 surgery,” as part of my transition plan. I expect to have top surgery by March
15 2018. I expect to complete my medical transition by 2020.

16 23. People use male pronouns to address me, even when they have never
17 met me before. In my unit, no one says anything negative about the fact that I am
18 transgender. My unit received training on transgender identity, which was
19 mandatory like sexual harassment training.

20 24. When I think about the Army, I think about the individuals with
21 whom I serve. I think about how we support each other and work together to get
22 our jobs done. This is my family in arms. Together, we protect our country.

23 **The Ban**

24 25. In July 2017, I learned of President Trump’s announcement via
25 Twitter that transgender service members would no longer be allowed to serve in
26 the military “in any capacity.” I did not want to believe that this could be true.
27 People kept asking me if I was okay. My commander even pulled me into his
28

1 office to see how I was doing. I had trouble believing that anyone would question
2 my ability to serve in the Army.

3 26. In August 2017, I learned that President Trump issued a statement
4 formally changing the policy with regard to transgender service in the military.
5 This devastated me. The ban openly questioned whether I am fit to do my job. I
6 know that I am. It deeply saddened me that President Trump was ordering the
7 Army, where I have served since high school and where I have planned to make a
8 career, to deny me my job, my income, my benefits and, ultimately, to deny me the
9 respect that I deserve.

10 27. Since the ban, my unit has stayed supportive. My chain of command
11 has been supportive. They tell me they want me to keep serving. My command
12 has been giving me more experience and affording me more opportunities. They
13 say they want to show how much value I add to the unit, so if some transgender
14 soldiers can keep serving, then I will be one of them. My command is trying to
15 protect me.

16 28. I am grateful to my command for trying to rectify the degradation of
17 my service at the hands of the ban. The ban casts transgender service members
18 like me as deficient, hindering effectiveness, and dangerous, disrupting unit
19 cohesion -- in other words, as unfit. But no one in my unit says that I am unfit to
20 serve. They say that I am part of the unit.

21 29. Despite this support, I know that when the ban goes into effect, there
22 will be nothing that my command or my unit can do to protect me from being
23 subject to involuntary discharge.

24 **The Impact of the Ban**

25 30. If I can no longer serve in the military, I will face a very stark future.
26 Right now, in every decision I make, I am forced to plan for two different futures.
27 In one, I have a stable job, benefits for myself and my family, and respect. In the
28 other, my family and I face stigma, economic hardship, and extreme vulnerability.

1 31. If the ban goes into effect, I will lose my salary, housing allowance,
2 clothing allowance, and food allowance. I do not know how I will find work to
3 support myself and my family. The military offers training and courses that might
4 help me get a civilian job, but I need more time to take them. The training that I
5 have received to date in the military does not readily translate to a civilian job.

6 32. I do not know the type of discharge that I would receive, so I cannot
7 know which civilian jobs will take me. If I receive a dishonorable discharge, like
8 those discharged under the former “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy, I expect that it
9 will be nearly impossible to find a good job. If I receive a medical discharge, then
10 I worry that civilian employers will think that I am unfit for physical work or that I
11 will be a health burden or unreliable.

12 33. I am also concerned that the stigma that comes from being labeled
13 officially “unfit” by the President of the United States and the U.S. military will
14 have a negative impact on how employers and others will see me.

15 34. When the ban goes into effect in March 2018, I do not know where
16 my wife and I will live, or even how we will afford to live. We may be forced to
17 move somewhere with more jobs or somewhere that is more affordable. We may
18 be forced to move in with other family members. We do not know if we even can
19 afford to move.

20 35. When the ban goes into effect in March 2018, my wife and I will lose
21 our health benefits. My wife is in school now and does not have her own benefits.
22 We both rely on my healthcare benefits through TRICARE. We would try to find
23 insurance, but I do not know if we could afford it or if we would have the same
24 level of coverage, or vision or dental care. I worry what might happen if one of us
25 gets sick or hurt and we no longer have good healthcare.

26 36. I joined the military to have a good career, to do work in which I
27 could take pride, and to receive training and an education. When the ban goes into
28 effect, I will lose my career and my opportunities for education and training. My

1 wife also will be forced to stop taking the classes she is pursuing. The Army will
2 stop paying for our education and I will not have income to pay for her tuition.

3 37. When the ban goes into effect, I do not know how we will afford
4 retirement. If I can continue serving, I can accrue enough years for an Army
5 pension.

6 38. I worry about returning to civilian life. In the Army, my unit accepts
7 me as transgender because I am here to serve my country and work as a cohesive
8 unit with my fellow soldiers. But, based on my experience, civilians may not be so
9 accepting. When I was a civilian, the lack of acceptance forced me to hide who I
10 really am. Now, those same people may see a piece of paper that says I am unfit to
11 do my job. I think that they will believe it, because some people want an excuse to
12 judge others. This ban gives them that excuse.

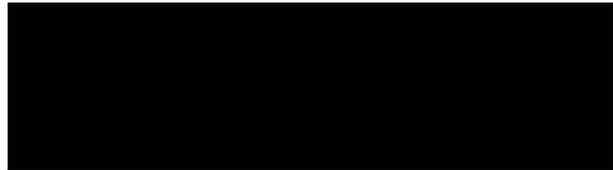
13 39. The ban feels like a devastating blow in the face of my service to this
14 nation. In the Army, I have opportunity and I belong. I work hard for my country
15 and my unit. To be told that I am now somehow “unfit” and not worthy of respect
16 for reasons wholly unrelated to my abilities feels completely unfair.

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

Dated: September 21, 2017



Specialist
United States Army