

## Fit to Serve Act

*Senators Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Kirsten Gillibrand, Tammy Baldwin, Ed Markey, Ron Wyden, Mazie Hirono, Jeff Merkley, John Fetterman, Chris Van Hollen, Bernie Sanders, Andy Kim, Cory Booker, Brian Schatz, and Tina Smith*

*Representatives Adam Smith, Mark Takano, Chrissy Houlahan, Sara Jacobs, Eric Sorensen, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Robert Garcia, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Delia Ramirez, Becca Balint, Joe Courtney, Marilyn Strickland, Jan Schakowsky, Maxine Dexter, Andrea Salinas, Chris Pappas, Rashida Tlaib, Hank Johnson, Gabe Amo, Laura Friedman, Suzan DelBene, Sylvia Garcia, Angie Craig, Valerie Foushee, Rob Menendez, Lizzie Fletcher, Chuy García, and Gil Cisneros*

**Background:** Transgender service members have served honorably, dedicating decades of their lives to the military, deploying multiple times, and commanding large numbers of troops. They include test pilots, Navy divers, intelligence analysts, weapons specialists, combat aviators, and more. Former Pentagon officials have [testified](#) that allowing transgender service members to openly serve “fosters openness and trust among team members, thereby enhancing unit cohesion” and that “transgender service members who meet the standards required for their positions serve effectively and contribute positively to unit readiness.”

In January 2025, President Trump issued an [executive order](#) to ban transgender individuals from the military. Though the ban is still being [litigated](#) in federal court for potentially violating the Constitution, DoD has already begun to [implement](#) it. This ban undermines our military readiness and national security by removing [thousands](#) of talented, experienced service members and signaling to potential recruits that the military does not respect them, their colleagues, their family, or their friends simply because of who they are. It also wastes billions of taxpayer dollars invested in training these troops to become leaders to keep all of us safe.

This bill has been endorsed by the following organizations: Human Rights Campaign, Minority Veterans of America, SPARTA, Out in National Security, Advocates for Trans Equality, Modern Military Association of America, National Women’s Law Center, and National Center for LGBTQ Rights.

To ensure that transgender individuals who are qualified to serve may do so, the *Fit to Serve Act* prohibits DoD from:

- Banning transgender service members from the military;
- Prescribing qualifications for service on the basis of gender identity;
- Denying necessary health care for service members on the basis of gender identity;
- Forcing a service member to serve in their sex assigned at birth; or
- Otherwise discriminating against service members on the basis of gender identity.