

JROTC Takes Right Approach To Trans Students In Program

White House Should Take Cue From Nation Ford's Program

Staff Editorial

Trump banned transgender people from the military on Friday, August 25. As reported on CNN, "President Donald Trump directed the military not to move forward with an Obama-era plan that would have allowed transgender individuals to be recruited into the armed forces, following through on his intentions announced a month earlier to ban transgender people from serving."

Fortunately, Fort Mill School District's policy is not going to be affected by Trump's ban. The JROTC program is open to everyone, regardless of gender identity. However students still might not reach the requirements for going into the military. They are allowed to go through the program up until they would enter into the military after graduating high school, then the ban comes into play.

"Two transgender cadets — one each at the Air Force and Army military academies — will be allowed to graduate this month after passing exams but will not be permitted to join the ranks of the military's newest offi-

cers," according to a Sept. 3 article in *USA Today*. That's because the military hasn't established procedures for accepting new trans troops in the ranks.

Although the Fort Mill School District is not changing their policies, it's wrong for students who are allowed to go through four years of JROTC and all that work to be prohibited from pursuing a military career path.

Trump's ban on soldiers who identify as transgender destroyed months and years of hard work from activist groups. A statement from *The Washington Post* helps clear it up: "Trump also cut off transgender Americans from an institution that's historically been viewed as a microcosm of society — and a bastion of steady employment."

The U.S. Military is the single-largest employer of trans people, with an estimated 15,500 active-duty trans personnel. It's astonishing how many active duty soldiers were let go when the ban was set in stone.

Transgender American people are patriots, and they are far behind other LGBTQ groups in access to education, employment and affordable living.

Everyone is human if we strip down beneath the skin. The JROTC program is inclusive, and the rest of the country should be, too.

"Two transgender cadets — one each at the Air Force and Army military academies — will be allowed to graduate this month after passing exams but will not be permitted to join the ranks of the military's newest officers..."

18 countries allow transgender military personnel to serve openly:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Source: rand.org

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THE TALON POLICY

The Talon provides students with an opportunity to discuss information related to Nation Ford High School. The paper's objective is to notify the school community of the news in a timely and informative manner and to entertain them through articles and columns.

The staff encourages letters to the editor. Nation Ford High School students, staff members, and the public can express their opinions and reactions to the articles in *The Talon*.

Letters should be signed and should not exceed 150 words. Letters submitted may be published in the paper at the discretion of *The Talon* staff and will be edited for accuracy, length, and grammar, as well as offensive or inappropriate content.

The staff may permanently keep all unpublished letters for reference or guidance for future writing. All submissions should be submitted to Mrs. Swann, room D517, or via email to swanne@fortmillschools.org.

Please keep in mind that opinions voiced in the articles and personal columns are not those of the Nation Ford High School newspaper staff or Nation Ford High School's administration, faculty, or staff; opinions are solely those of the author who submitted the article.

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