

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

The Honorable John McCain  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Russell Senate Building, Room 228  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Armed Services  
Russell Senate Building, Room 228  
Washington, D.C. 20510

April 24, 2017

Dear Chairman McCain and Ranking Member Reed,

We are writing to urge you to oppose Mark E. Green's nomination for the position of Secretary of the Army. The Secretary of the Army is responsible for supporting over one million soldiers, a number that includes many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender soldiers. However, Mr. Green's past statements and actions have made it clear that he cannot be trusted to ensure that LGBT soldiers are able to serve their country without discrimination or harassment.

Mr. Green has described being transgender as a "disease" that represents a form of "immorality." As a member of the Tennessee Senate, Mr. Green introduced a bill that would have barred local governments and public universities from instituting non-discrimination policies to govern which private companies they would work with, shielding companies that discriminate against LGBT people. He also co-sponsored a bill that would have forced transgender students to use the bathroom that matches their legal sex rather than their actual gender and voted for a bill that would have allowed providers of mental health care to refuse to treat LGBT people.

Since the end of Don't Ask Don't Tell, we have been pleased to witness the enormous strides that have been made in welcoming LGBT people into the U.S. Armed Forces. In particular, we welcomed the Department of Defense's decision in 2016 to allow transgender Americans to serve in the military. The Army memo accompanying that decision stated that "the Army is open to all who can meet the standards for military service and readiness and remains committed to treating all soldiers with dignity and respect." Unfortunately, nothing in Mr. Green's record suggests that he shares that commitment.

LGBT soldiers are willing to make tremendous sacrifices to protect our rights and freedoms. It would be deeply disrespectful to their service to appoint a Secretary of the Army whose history of homophobia and transphobia makes it clear that he is not willing to do the same for them.

All the best,



Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress



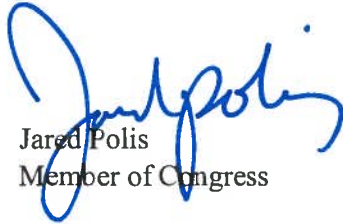
Sean Patrick Maloney  
Member of Congress



David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



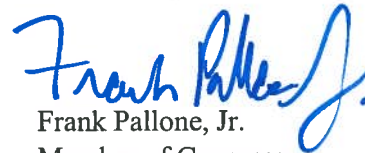
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress



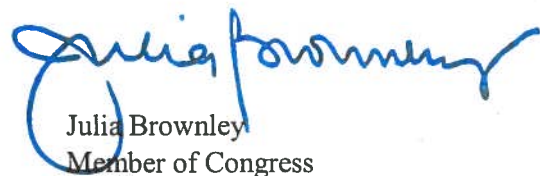
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

*Nanette Diaz Barragan*

Nanette Diaz Barragan  
Member of Congress

*Gwen Moore*

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

*Debbie Wasserman Schultz*

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

*Rubén J. Kihuen*

Ruben J. Kihuen  
Member of Congress

*Barbara Lee*

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

*Hank Johnson*

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson Jr.  
Member of Congress

*Dina Titus*

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

*Chellie Pingree*

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

*Susan A. Davis*

Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress

*Ro Khanna*

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

*Bonnie Watson Coleman*

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

*Colleen Hanabusa*

Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress

*Ted Deutch*

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress