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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;
JANE DOE; and EQUALITY
24 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. JANE DOE, IN
SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION**

1 I, Jane Doe, declare as follows:

2 1. I currently serve as a Staff Sergeant, E-5 Rank, in the United States
3 Air Force. I am a Risk Management Framework Program Manager at a
4 strategically important overseas base. I am transgender.

5 **Military Career**

6 2. After graduating from college, I became interested in military service.
7 I wanted a job that provided a sense of discipline, responsibility, and practical
8 skills. I wanted to serve my country. I knew that the military could provide all
9 that I hoped for in a career. I enlisted in the Air Force in 2010.

10 3. Because I had a college degree, I entered as an Airman First Class, the
11 highest enlistment rank possible upon entry into the Air Force. After basic
12 training, I was stationed domestically and then selected for deployment to the
13 Middle East.

14 4. In 2011, during my first deployment to the Middle East, my command
15 promoted me to Senior Airman, E-4 Rank, “below the zone.” A “below the zone”
16 promotion is an early promotion awarded to one or two candidates displaying an
17 uncommon level of skill that outstrips their current rank. I also earned my first Air
18 Force Achievement Medal.

19 5. Upon completion of my first Middle East deployment in 2014 I
20 received my first base assignment, where I served as a Combat Crew
21 Communications Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge. I earned a promotion to
22 Staff Sergeant, achieving that rank on my first attempt when most others must try
23 two or even three times. I was awarded an Air Force Commendation Medal for
24 distinctly exemplary service.

25 6. The Air Force deployed me to the Middle East a second time. For my
26 service during that deployment, I earned my second Air Force Achievement medal.

27 7. Currently, I am stationed abroad at a strategically important Air Force
28 base, where I am a Risk Management Framework Program Manager. I have

1 received a new assignment to another strategically important base, this time to
2 work with an intelligence-gathering unit in Asia. I have been formally notified that
3 I am in line for a promotion to Technical Sergeant.

4 8. I receive between \$36,000 and \$38,000 in annual base pay, with a
5 housing allowance of \$1,500 per month, food allowance of \$350 per month, and a
6 uniform allowance of \$300 per year. If promoted to Technical Sergeant, I will
7 receive a 10% increase in base pay.

8 9. I plan on serving in the military until I qualify for a military pension
9 and other military benefits to support my retirement. I do not have other retirement
10 savings.

11 10. I receive health insurance through the military's TRICARE program.
12 TRICARE covers all medically-necessary healthcare, including health, vision and
13 dental care.

14 **Serving as an Airman who is Transgender**

15 11. As a child in a small New England town, I had no idea that
16 transgender people even existed. I learned the term, and my identity, when I was
17 approximately 14 years old. A friend used the word transgender and I instantly
18 knew what it meant and that it applied to me. But to be that young and different in
19 a small town was overwhelming, and I did not feel comfortable telling anyone. It
20 was not until college that I finally felt comfortable enough to tell people that I am
21 transgender. Even then, I came out only to those closest to me.

22 12. At the time I enlisted in the Air Force, I knew that I could not serve
23 my country and be open about the fact that I am transgender, so I hid my
24 transgender identity during my early military service. After my second
25 deployment in the Middle East, I came out to my mother and I also began living as
26 a woman in the privacy of my home. By that time, I knew that the Department of
27 Defense had begun reviewing its policy on military service by transgender
28 individuals. I had started seeing a mental health care provider on base to discuss

1 my gender dysphoria, but I had not come out as transgender to my chain of
2 command.

3 13. In 2016, I learned that the ban on open service by transgender service
4 members had been lifted. I immediately came out to my chain of command and to
5 my colleagues. The lifting of the ban also made me feel comfortable telling the
6 rest of my family and friends that I am transgender. I updated my social media to
7 my correct gender, and began living full time as a woman. I finally felt like I could
8 be myself.

9 14. My command has been remarkably supportive. With their acceptance
10 and support, I felt that I could pursue medical transition. Together, my command,
11 my doctor and I created a medical transition plan which has now received all
12 necessary approvals, including approvals from the Air Force's Medical Multi-
13 Disciplinary Team and the Pentagon.

14 **The Ban is Reinstated**

15 15. In July 2017, I read a series of tweets by President Trump stating that
16 I would no longer be permitted to serve in the United States Air Force. I worried
17 that the President's statement would destroy my career, despite my achievements
18 and sacrifice for my country. That fear became reality in August 2017, when the
19 President issued an official statement ordering the Department of Defense to
20 impose a ban authorizing me and other transgender service members to be
21 involuntarily separated from the military as of March 2018.

22 **The Impact of the Ban**

23 16. Though I have no desire to end my military service, the ban is forcing
24 me to prepare for a future where I am no longer permitted to serve in the military.

25 17. If I am involuntarily separated from the military in March 2018 or
26 thereafter, as authorized by the ban, I will lose my salary and my housing, food and
27 clothing allowances.

28

1 18. Involuntary separation under the ban also will deny me the
2 opportunity to achieve a promotion to Technical Sergeant, which I already have
3 been selected for, as well as any chance of retirement benefits from the military.

4 19. I do not know if I will receive an Honorable discharge when I am
5 involuntarily separated from the military. I know that under “Don’t Ask, Don’t
6 Tell,” lesbian and gay service members received Dishonorable discharges.
7 Because the level of one’s discharge can affect the benefits available to a veteran,
8 the ban may deny me certain veteran benefits to which I would otherwise be
9 entitled. In addition, I am concerned that civilian employers will be reluctant to
10 hire me if I am involuntarily discharged, especially if my discharge is anything but
11 Honorable.

12 20. I also don’t know if I will receive a medical discharge when I am
13 involuntarily separated from the military, as required by the prior policy that the
14 President has ordered the Department of Defense to reinstate. Having a medical
15 discharge will negatively affect my ability to find a civilian job, in addition to
16 violating my privacy and, in effect, forcing me to “out” myself as transgender to
17 any future civilian employer.

18 21. I know that transgender people face significant discrimination when
19 searching for civilian employment. I am concerned that the President’s ban will
20 significantly exacerbate that discrimination and have a negative impact on my
21 ability to find a civilian job, particularly when I have been declared “unfit” to serve
22 my country.

23 22. Ordinarily, having served in the military is viewed positively by most
24 people, who respect those who have dedicated themselves to protecting and
25 serving our country. But as a result of the ban, I and other transgender service
26 members will be deprived of that honor, regard, and respect.

27 23. Perhaps most of all, I fear the ban’s effect on my unit and our military
28 effectiveness. The Air Force needs my skillset and needs my fellow airmen to

1 work together. But the ban casts me as a disruption simply because of who I am.
2 If others start to believe the falsehoods engendered by the ban, it will undermine
3 unit cohesion and the ability for us to do our jobs. That threatens military lethality.

4 24. Under the specter of the discrimination against transgender persons
5 authorized by the ban, I am concerned about what will happen to transgender
6 people both in and out of the military. Leaders set the tone for the country. I know
7 a transgender student who was fortunate to have a supportive principal. Because
8 of the principal's leadership, she was accepted by her peers. Then, other
9 leadership removed support for the student. Without the support of leadership, the
10 acceptance and support from her peers crumbled. She now faces daily ridicule for
11 simply being who she is. Similarly, the President's ban has emboldened many
12 people to express and increase their animosity toward transgender people. I fear
13 what this will mean for transgender people and for other vulnerable groups.

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

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3 Dated: September 29, 2017



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Technical Sergeant
United States Air Force

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