



Commission on Equity and Reconciliation in the Uniformed Services Act

Endorsing Organization Statements

Modern Military Association of America

“We have long known that LGBTQ+ service members and veterans, particularly those with intersecting identities like racial minorities and women, have faced a disparate impact from discriminatory policies within the uniformed services. The Commission on Equity and Reconciliation in the Uniformed Services Act is an important step forward in identifying the impact of discriminatory policies and corresponding actions on physical and mental well-being alongside the lasting psychological, financial, and professional impacts who were discharged due to their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. The Commission’s recommendations on how to streamline and make more accessible discharge upgrades and record amendments will be extremely beneficial to the tens of thousands of LGBTQ+ veterans who are still fighting for discharge upgrades. We thank Hon. Mark Takano for his leadership toward committing resources that ensure equity all LGBTQ+ service members and veterans who proudly serve our nation.”

- Rachel Branaman, Interim Executive Director

Equality California

“Throughout the history of our country, patriotic LGBTQ+ people have answered the call to serve. However, for much of that history, they were discriminated against, intimidated, and unjustly discharged. Although barriers to equal military service have now been removed, the impact of this discriminatory history on the LGBTQ+ community is largely untold. Rep. Takano's Commission on Equity and Reconciliation in the Uniformed Services Act is essential to measure the effects of long-standing unjust policies that directly impacted LGBTQ+ servicemembers, their families, and the American military itself.”

- Tony Hoang, Executive Director

Minority Veterans of America

"As our nation confronts its legacy of systemic discrimination, an in-depth examination of the daily inequities faced by LGBTQ veterans and servicemembers is long past due. From the Trans Ban to Don't Ask, Don't Tell, military policy has had a profound impact on the lives of service members, past and present. This legislation marks a pivotal stride toward eradicating disparities and fostering a more equitable world for marginalized, underserved, and underrepresented service members and veterans. We eagerly anticipate advocating for its swift passage in Congress, with hopes for a prompt signing by President Biden."

- *Lindsay Church, Executive Director*

Paralyzed Veterans of America

"PVA appreciates the efforts of Ranking Member Takano, Representative Jacobs, and Senator Blumenthal to establish a commission to review the needs and experiences of LGBTQ veterans and servicemembers as a way to ensure that they receive the benefits and health care that they have rightfully earned through their military service."

- *Heather Ansley, Chief Policy Officer*

The American Legion

"For too long, veterans in the LGBTQ+ community have grappled with the challenges of stigma, rejection, and policies that prevented them from serving their country openly, obtaining appropriate care, and acquiring proper benefits. The American Legion firmly supports the creation of a commission tasked with investigating these inequities and determining viable solutions to ensure that every one of our nation's veterans receives the respect they have earned and the benefits they deserve."

- *Chanin Nuntavong, Executive Director*

Human Rights Campaign

"LGBTQ+ servicemembers and veterans often face discrimination, ostracization, and harassment as a result of inadequate and inequitable military policy and practice. The Commission on Equity and Reconciliation in the Uniformed Services Act will be an important step forward to identify disparities in services and benefits, and provide recommendations to support servicemembers, veterans and their families moving forward. We thank Representatives Mark Takano and Sara Jacobs and Senator Richard Blumenthal for their leadership to help ensure equity for all LGBTQ+ patriots who wish to proudly serve their nation."

- *David Stacy, Vice President of Government Affairs*