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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR EMANUEL'S RESOLUTION OPPOSING  
PRESIDENT TRUMP'S BAN ON TRANSGENDER PEOPLE FROM MILITARY SERVICE**

City Council today passed a resolution introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, the LGBT Caucus and members of Chicago City Council to express opposition to President Donald Trump's decision to ban transgender individuals from military service. The resolution is supported by the Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR), and holds that the decision to ban transgender people from the armed forces is a divisive and discriminatory policy that does nothing to enhance the safety and security of the United States.

"Yet again, President Trump has come down on the wrong side of history and is choosing to divide us rather than unite us," said Mayor Emanuel. "Brave Americans who seek to selflessly serve this country in uniform should have the opportunity to answer the call to service, regardless of their identity."

On the 69th anniversary of President Truman's order to integrate the military, the Trump administration announced the reversal of a decision by former Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter to lift the ban on transgender military service.

"Today's decision by City Council demonstrates Chicago's continued commitment to supporting troops of every race, color, religion, gender, and gender identity," said Mona Noriega, Chair and Commissioner of the Commission on Human Relations. "This decision is based on old stereotypes, not on facts and will prove to be not only a personal blow for our transgender service members, but a substantial professional loss for the US military."

A Rand Corporation study commissioned by the Department of Defense estimated that there are fewer than 10,000 members of the armed forces who are transgender. The study concluded that allowing members of the transgender community to serve does not impact unit cohesion, operational effectiveness, or readiness for service.

Transgender soldiers openly serve in the military forces of eighteen of our allies around the world, including Israel and Great Britain. Many of these allies have noted that policies allowing the transgender community to serve in the military has benefited all service members by creating a more inclusive and diverse force.

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