

PALM CENTER

BLUEPRINTS FOR SOUND PUBLIC POLICY

Former Service Secretaries Admonish Pentagon Witnesses for Misleading Congress on Transgender Ban

“In seeking to justify President Trump's wrong-headed ban on transgender service members at a Congressional hearing last week, Defense Department officials made misleading claims. Under inclusive policy that is currently in effect, transgender service members must meet exactly the same fitness and deployability standards as everybody else, but the witnesses ignored data confirming the success of that policy while making the untrue assertion that holding all service members to the same standards affords “special accommodations” to transgender troops. We agree with the 41 retired General and Flag Officers who [affirmed](#) their support for inclusive policy last week. There is no defensible rationale for imposing 'don't ask, don't tell' on honorably serving transgender troops.”

Ray Mabus
75th Secretary of the U.S. Navy

Deborah Lee James
23rd Secretary of the U.S. Air Force

Eric Fanning
22nd Secretary of the U.S. Army