**Trump Administration Continues Attack on LGBTQ Community with Transgender Military Ban**

**Norfolk, VA** - When Trump stood in front of the Republican Party – and America – to accept his party’s nomination, he held up a rainbow flag and said that he would protect LGBTQ Americans. Day after day, and week after week, the Trump administration has worked to eliminate LGBTQ Americans from the conversation. Any mention of LGBTQ Americans has been removed from all government websites. This administration has appointed the most anti-LGBTQ administration in recent history – like the nation’s top lawyer, Jeff Sessions – and today’s he’s trying to eliminate LGBTQ American from the picture all together, by dishonoring those that serve and protect our country.

We’ve heard these lines before; that if we let African Americans into the military there would be medical costs and disruption, that if we let women serve there would be medical costs and disruption, that if we let gay men and women serve there would be medical costs and disruption. Now, these exaggerated and false statements are being applied to the 15,000 transgender individuals that openly and bravely serve their country.

“It is clear that this administration has no intent to protect LGBTQ Americans, despite what the President has said in the past. The time for lip-service is over. People in this country, including – as we saw today – people that serve in our military, can be fired just for being transgender. They can be denied housing or be evicted just for being transgender. People in our community woke up this morning to find out they don’t have a job, their boss doesn’t support them, and they don’t know what their future looks like. It’s terrifying, it’s wrong, and it’s dishonorable,” said Stacie Walls-Beegle, CEO of LGBT Life Center.

Walls-Beegle went on to say “With over 15,000 active duty and reserve soldiers, many of whom reside in Hampton Roads, the American people need to realize that trans individuals live with this fear every day because federal protections don’t exist. The United States military should not be exempt from anti-discrimination.”

For more information on the LGBT Life Center, please visit www.lgbtlifecenter.org or call 757-640-0929.

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**ABOUT LGBT LIFE CENTER**: LGBT Life Center was formerly known as CANDII House, Full Circle CANDII, and ACCESS AIDS Care/LGBT Center of Hampton Roads until June of 2017 when it expanded its mission and rebranded as LGBT Life Center. LGBT Life Center is a trusted leader that empowers the LGBTQ communities and all people affected by HIV through improving health and wellness, strengthening families and communities and providing transformative education and advocacy.