



July 13, 2017

**Vote NO on Hartzler Amendment #315 to the NDAA – Discriminatory and Unconstitutional**

Dear Representative:

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is strongly opposed to Hartzler Amendment #315 to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (NDAA), H.R. 2810. This amendment would bar transgender members of the Armed Forces and military families from receiving appropriate and medically necessary health care. This is a discriminatory, unconstitutional attack on transgender service members and their families, plain and simple. It should be overwhelmingly rejected by members of the House of Representatives.

Barring access to appropriate and medically necessary health care, including transition-related care, for transgender service members and their families is not only discriminatory, but runs counter to scientific evidence and contemporary medical standards of care. It also puts the health of certain service members at needless risk and undermines the ability of military medical professionals to provide necessary care for their patients.

There is a clear and overwhelming consensus among the leading medical organizations – including the American Medical Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Psychological Association – that transition-related care is safe, effective, non-experimental, and medically necessary. If a military doctor determines that transition-related care (e.g. hormone therapy) is medically necessary for a transgender service member, then that treatment should be provided just as it would be for any other medical condition for any other service member.

Members of the House of Representatives should overwhelmingly reject this discriminatory attempt to deny necessary health care to certain service members and their families. All of the members of our Armed Forces willingly put their lives on the line in defense of our nation. The least that Congress can do is ensure that the health care needs of our service members and their families are being met.

AMERICAN CIVIL  
LIBERTIES UNION  
WASHINGTON  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE  
915 15th STREET, NW, 6<sup>TH</sup> FL  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
T/202.544.1681  
F/202.546.0738  
[WWW.ACLU.ORG](http://WWW.ACLU.ORG)

FAIZ SHAKIR  
DIRECTOR

NATIONAL OFFICE  
125 BROAD STREET, 18<sup>TH</sup> FL.  
NEW YORK, NY 10004-2400  
T/212.549.2500

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
SUSAN N. HERMAN  
PRESIDENT

ANTHONY D. ROMERO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROBERT REMAR  
TREASURER

Accordingly, the ACLU is strongly opposed to Hartzler Amendment #315 to the NDAA and urges all members to vote NO on it.

Please contact Ian Thompson, legislative representative, at (202) 715-0837 or [ithompson@aclu.org](mailto:ithompson@aclu.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Faiz Shakir". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Faiz" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Shakir".

**Faiz Shakir**  
National Political Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ian Thompson". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first name "Ian" and last name "Thompson" clearly legible.

**Ian Thompson**  
Legislative Representative