



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

THOMAS A. TURCO, III
Secretary

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

July 16, 2019

Senator Eric P. Lesser
State House
24 Beacon St.
Room 413-C
Boston, MA, 02133

Representative Mindy Domb
State House
24 Beacon St.
Room 134
Boston, MA, 02133

Senator Julian Cyr
State House
24 Beacon St.
Room 309
Boston, MA, 02133

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I am writing in response to your June 11th letter to Governor Baker regarding the federal military policy on transgender service members in the United States Armed Forces.

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security ("EOPSS") is responsible for overseeing the Massachusetts National Guard in its state capacity including certain areas of policies and practices. Thank you for noting Massachusetts National Guard's support for transgender service personnel and the Governor's support for transgender service members.

The Massachusetts National Guard and the Baker-Polito Administration will continue to support transgender Soldiers and Airmen in serving our Commonwealth with dignity and respect. The Massachusetts National Guard serves the interests of the Commonwealth and the Nation best with a military force that recruits and retains the most qualified people without regard to race, gender, color, creed, sexual orientation, national origin, or gender identity. Recruitment and retention of our Soldiers and Airmen is governed by federal law and policy. The Massachusetts National Guard has reviewed the recent changes to the federal transgender policy and will continue to assist in the endorsement of waivers and exceptions in accordance with federal policy in order to support accession and retention of the best qualified individuals in our military force regardless of their gender identity.

Thank you for your correspondence and should you have any questions, please feel free to contact EOPSS's Legislative Director, Brian Merrick at 617-274-5517 or by e-mail at Brian.Merrick@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Turco, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Thomas A. Turco, III

CC:

Senator Sal. N. DiDomenico
Senator Brendan Crighton
Senator James Eldridge
Senator Michael Barrett
Senator Paul Fenney
Senator Harriette Chandler
Senator Barry Finegold
Senator Nick Collins
Senator Cindy Friedman
Senator Adam Hines
Senator Cynthia Stone-Creem
Senator Patricia Jehlen