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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Attorney General Brown Stands with Transgender Military Members in Challenge to President Trump's Discriminatory Executive Order** ***Maryland and 19 States File Amicus Brief in Federal Court***

**BALTIMORE, MD (February 14, 2025)** – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown today joined a coalition of 20 attorneys general in filing an [amicus brief](#) to support a lawsuit aiming to block the implementation of President Trump's executive order banning transgender people from serving in the military. The brief argues that the executive order is unconstitutional, harms national security, and discriminates against transgender people honorably serving in our nation's military, including the National Guard in every state.

The brief filed by Attorney General Brown and the coalition supports a request for a preliminary injunction filed by a group of current and prospective transgender service members. The plaintiffs filed suit in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. The Court set the date for a hearing on February 18, 2025.

"Transgender Americans deserve the honor of serving their country through military service, just like every other American patriot," said Attorney General Brown. "This ban dishonors every servicemember who makes sacrifices to protect our freedom to be our true selves."

The coalition argues that President Trump's executive order purporting to ban transgender people from serving in the military violates the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution. It would also weaken our military, harm state emergency and disaster preparedness, deprive the military of experienced and qualified soldiers during an extremely challenging time for recruitment, and engage in discrimination in violation of state laws protecting transgender individuals' right to participate fully in society.

Transgender people have served in the military for years. A 2014 study found that approximately 150,000 veterans, active-duty service members, and members of the National Guard or Reserves identified as transgender. In fact, transgender individuals are about twice as likely to have served in the military as cisgender individuals. But the executive order would require the military to discharge transgender members and turn away potential recruits solely because they identify as transgender. After the first, longstanding ban was lifted in 2016, and again when the Trump administration's first attempt to ban transgender service was reversed in 2021, some transgender

National Guard members came out to their superiors and peers with no negative impact on the Guard's functions.

The military has already concluded—twice—following comprehensive reviews that allowing transgender individuals to serve consistent with their gender identity is in the nation's best interest. Reinstating the ban simply cannot be justified by reference to costs, unit cohesion, or overall readiness.

Joining Attorney General Brown in filing today's brief are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

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