



Board of Directors  
Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley  
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January 22, 2019

**Silicon Valley Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Statement on  
The Supreme Court Allowing Transgender Ban to Go Into Effect**

The Rainbow Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley strongly condemns the Supreme Court's decision today to allow President Trump's ban on qualified transgender Americans serving in the United States military to go into effect. We continue to stand with the many veteran and LGBT organizations around the country that have spoken out against this ban, along with the millions of Americans who believe that any person who is willing and able to serve their country should have the opportunity to do so.

As we stated when this hateful policy was first announced, the impact of this decision will fall most heavily on LGBT veterans who face this discrimination while also struggling with higher health risks, difficulty in accessing re-entry and support services, and the challenge of finding affordable housing. It is inexcusable that this administration would seek to score political points at the expense of those who served, or wish to serve, their country will honor and dignity.

The Silicon Valley Rainbow Chamber of Commerce will continue to support our local LGBT veterans and their families as they return to civilian life and enter the workforce. With over one million LGBT veterans living in the United States and more than 130,000 of those identifying as transgender, LGBT veterans are an important part of our local business communities as both employees and business leaders. We continue to believe that the success of the LGBT community, including our veterans, is essential to a healthy and vibrant local economy.

*- Ron Gardner, President of the Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley*