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Reinstated Obama/Biden Transgender Policy Disrespects the Troops

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III has announced <u>reinstatement</u> of Obama-era directives regarding military personnel who identify as **transgender** or have been diagnosed with **gender dysphoria**. Austin simultaneously recognized <u>"International</u> <u>Transgender Day of Visibility."</u> The following comments may be attributed to **Elaine Donnelly**, **President of the Center for Military Readiness (CMR)**, an independent public policy organization that reports on and analyzes military/social issues:

- "It is unfortunate that **President Joe Biden** has once again demoralized the troops with 'woke' policies that deny biological science and weaken military readiness and morale.
- "What message is the President and Defense Secretary Austin sending to belligerent nations that do not care about "woke" ideology, such as **China**, **Russia**, **North Korea**, or **Iran**?
- "Recycled **Obama-era** transgender policies are not about "dignity and respect," as advertised. Military women, for example, will have to accept **indignity** and **disrespect** when biological men violate their privacy in women-only facilities.
- "Military academy and school officials also will disrespect women's right to compete on **athletic teams** without interference from biological males.
- "How is it **respectful** for **Obama/Biden** policies to ignore and overrule the convictions of **military doctors and nurses** who object to irreversible transgender treatments and surgeries on grounds of **medical ethics**?
- "And what **dignity** is there when men and women in all branches are "re-educated" and forced to use gender-reversed pronouns, which deny biological realities?
- "Contrary to **Obama/Biden** transgender policies, persons who are confused about their gender identity cannot "**self-identify**" or change their biological sex. Nor can bureaucratic

changes in a person's "gender marker" alter sex-determining human DNA, which exists in every cell of a person's body, even before birth.

"Going beyond disrespect, Obama/Biden transgender policies fail to show compassion for persons diagnosed with gender dysphoria.

"In 2018, a Pentagon panel of experts produced for then-Defense Secretary **James Mattis** a detailed report on costs and consequences of implementing Obama-era transgender policies.

"Among other things, the resulting <u>Defense Department Report</u>, which CMR summarized <u>here</u>, found that medical costs for the 994 active-duty service members diagnosed with gender dysphoria increased 300%, accounting for 30,000 mental health visits.

"What is worse, during the time Obama-era policies were in effect, these individuals were found to be **eight to nine times** more likely to attempt **suicide**.

"Secretary Austin's endorsement of <u>International Transgender Day of Visibility</u> fails to recognize that gender dysphoria is a serious psychological condition that requires compassion and competent medical care, not politicized one-way treatments.

"President Biden's most important responsibility is to strengthen the armed forces and to lead with sound judgement as **Commander-in-Chief**. Instead, President Biden and Secretary of Defense Austin are once again surrendering the military to "woke" activists who are solely interested in promoting their agenda, not national security or the best interests of our nation."

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The Center for Military Readiness is an independent, non-partisan, public policy organization that reports on and analyses military social issues. CMR President **Elaine Donnelly**, who founded CMR in 1993, can be reached at 734/464-9430. More information is available on the organization's website, <u>www.cmrlink.org</u>.