

May 5, 2017

The Honorable John McCain
Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman McCain and Ranking Member Reed,

The undersigned organizations, including groups focused on civil rights, LGBTQ equality, women's rights, Muslims and other religious minorities, and the military, urge you to reject the intended nomination of Mark Green to be Secretary of the Army.

In recent years, the Army has moved toward creating an equal opportunity environment—one that strengthens the force and ensures all service members are treated fairly. However, Mark Green's inflammatory rhetoric conflicts with the Army's core values and ability to draw on the best talent to accomplish the mission. His radical views would send an incredibly dangerous message down the chain of command—a message that undermines the important progress we've made, threatening morale and readiness.

As a state senator, Green has repeatedly attacked the LGBTQ community, sponsoring or supporting legislation that would undermine civil rights law to grant businesses a license to discriminate; prohibit transgender students from using facilities that correspond with their gender identity; call on Tennessee to refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples in defiance of the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*; and allow mental health providers to refuse to treat LGBTQ patients.

He has also referred to the 2016 guidance by the Departments of Justice and Education on the rights of transgender students as an example of "tyrannical government action," and incorrectly asserted that psychiatrists believe that "transgender is a disease."

Green has voted for multiple anti-choice bills harmful to women's health. For example, he supported TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) legislation—the same type of abortion restriction that was struck down by the Supreme Court last year in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*. He has also supported multiple other pieces of legislation to restrict women's reproductive health decisions. Green has said that as a physician, he regularly refuses to prescribe birth control, referring women to other doctors and delaying their care. This record is extremely troubling for the women serving in the Army whom already often struggle to access reproductive health care.

Green's contempt for Islam and Muslims disqualifies him from leading the many Muslim soldiers who risk their lives for our country. In his own book, he wrote that Iraqi captives smelled like "curry mixed with sweat" and repeatedly cited widely discredited anti-Muslim films and blogs. Green even stated that Islam should be excluded from being taught about in public schools except when referring to a "Muslim horde" and "the assault of Islam" during the Ottoman Empire.

Mark Green has made a political career out of demeaning and marginalizing vulnerable communities and attacking their access to equality and opportunity. Our Army is made up of diverse communities of soldiers who proudly serve our nation and put their lives on the line for our freedoms. It would be unconscionable to put Mark Green in charge of that Army.

Sincerely,

Human Rights Campaign
A. Philip Randolph Institute
Alliance for Justice
American Military Partner Association
Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Anti-Defamation League
Bend the Arc Jewish Action
The Center for American Progress
The Center for HIV Law and Policy
Common Defense
Demos
Family Equality Council
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
JWI (Jewish Women International)
Lambda Legal
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Matthew Shepard Foundation
Muslim Advocates
Muslim Public Affairs Council
NAACP
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of Jewish Women
National Employment Law Project
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Partnership for Women & Families
NEAT - National Equality Action Team
OutServe-SLDN

People For the American Way
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Protect Our Defenders
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Servicewomens Action Network (SWAN)
The Trevor Project
Truman National Security Project
UltraViolet
Voices for Progress