

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  
National Women's Law Center  
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