



BY FIRST CLASS MAIL AND FAX
July 21, 2017

The Honorable Barbara Comstock
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Comstock:

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION OF
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On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia and our more than 40,000 members and supporters in Virginia, I am writing to thank you for your recent vote against the Hartzler Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. This discriminatory and unconstitutional amendment was nothing more than a legislative attack on transgender service members and military dependents. By undermining the ability of military medical professionals to provide necessary care for their patients, this dangerous proposal would have put the health and well-being of certain service members and military dependents at needless and unacceptable risk. As the ACLU argued in urging Members of Congress to oppose this amendment:

All of the members of our Armed Forces willingly put their lives on the line in defense of our nation. The least that Congress can do is ensure that the health care needs of our service members and their families are being met.

Thank you for joining the majority of your colleagues – Republican and Democrat alike – in rejecting this amendment by a vote of 209-214. As this vote demonstrates, support for LGBT rights in Congress is not a partisan issue. At the ACLU of Virginia, we recognize the importance of working in a nonpartisan manner with legislators from across the political spectrum in defense of our civil liberties and civil rights. We were pleased to note that opposition from two dozen Republican members played a decisive role in defeating the amendment and that you were among this group.

Now, some of your colleagues in the House are attempting to revive this mean-spirited and illegal attack on transgender people. We urge you to remain firm in your opposition to this measure, and communicate to the leadership in the House your strong opposition to reconsideration of this proposal in any form.

Thank you again for voting no on the Hartzler amendment when originally proposed. We look forward to finding ways to continue to engage with you in support of civil liberties and civil rights for all Virginians. Please do not

hesitate to call me at 804-523-2146 or email me at claire@acluva.org if I can answer questions or be of assistance on this or other issues in our portfolio.

Very truly yours,



Claire Guthrie Gastañaga

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