



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

APR 2 2018

The Honorable Vicky Hartzler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hartzler:

As a follow-up to my last note in response to your letters dated November 17, 2017 and December 21, 2017, regarding the Colonel Leland Bohannon religious accommodation case, I am writing to let you know that the Director of the Air Force Review Boards Agency granted Colonel Bohannon's appeal. The Director concluded that Colonel Bohannon had the right to exercise his sincerely held religious beliefs and did not unlawfully discriminate when he declined to sign the certificate of appreciation for the same sex spouse of an Airman in his command. The Air Force has a duty to treat people fairly and without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, or sexual orientation and met that duty by having a more senior officer sign the certificate.

The Air Force places a high value on the rights of its members to observe the tenets of their respective religions or to observe no religion at all. The decision on appeal applied current Air Force policy and the law. It is an example of a situation in which protected, and potentially competing, interests must be carefully examined and resolved.

The Air Force will ensure Col Bohannon's records are corrected in accordance with the final agency decision. Thank you for your thoughtful letter and interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Heather Wilson".

Heather Wilson