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Honorable Patrick Murphy:

It was disturbing to read that you have taken over leadership in working to repeal the 1993 law which is commonly misnamed 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' This law, sir, is necessary for morale, unit cohesion, order and discipline that are required in the unique environment that is military life. Thus, this law is necessary for our nation's defense because without a strong military we are open to attack both here and abroad.

On March 31, 2009 an Open Letter from Flag and General Officers was delivered to President Obama and Members of Congress. It notes, "We believe that imposing this burden (repeal of Section 654, Title 10 U.S.C.) on our men and women in uniform would undermine recruiting and retention, impact leadership at all levels, have adverse effects on the willingness of parents who lend their sons and daughters to military service, and eventually break the All-Volunteer Force."

Hopefully you were in receipt of this 54-page memo which contained the Open Letter and the signatures of over 1,000 Flag and General Officers who support the 1993 law. I encourage you to review the letter and signatures.

As mentioned, earlier 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is a misnomer. This law specifically says homosexuality is incompatible with the military. The 1993 law states in part:

(13) The prohibition against homosexual conduct is a long-standing element of military law that continues to be necessary in the unique circumstances of military service.

(14) The armed forces must maintain personnel policies that exclude persons whose presence in the armed forces would create an unacceptable risk to the armed forces' high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability.

(15) The presence in the armed forces of persons who demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability.

Homosexuals are being misled when they are told they can serve in the military as long as they don't tell that they are homosexual, this is not what the law says. I would encourage you to educate America on what the law really says and not work to overturn a law that is necessary for our nation's defense.

Sincerely,

Diane Gramley
President