

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 24, 2010

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, we have introduced legislation in the House and Senate to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that prevents gay men and women from serving openly in our Armed Forces. It is our firm belief that it is time to repeal this discriminatory policy that not only dishonors those who are willing to give their lives in service to their country but also prevents capable men and women with vital skills from serving in the Armed Forces at a time when our Nation is fighting two wars.

We applaud the pledge in your State of the Union Address to work with Congress and the military to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Secretary of Defense's subsequent establishment of a working group to make recommendations on how such repeal should be implemented. We further commend the Secretary and the leaders of the working group for their efforts to ensure that our military service members at all levels, as well as their families, have the chance to be heard on this issue.

Given the important efforts of the working group, we have developed a legislative proposal for consideration by the House and Senate that puts a process in place to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," once the working group has completed its review and you, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs certify that repeal can be achieved consistent with the military's standards of readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention. We appreciate the input that you and the Pentagon have provided throughout this process and request the Administration's official views on our legislative proposal.

Sincerely,


Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator


Carl Levin
United States Senator


Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress