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ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0606
November 30, 2010

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The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:


I am writing regarding the survey of service members released today as part of the *Report of the Comprehensive Review of the Issues Associated with a Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."* (DADT) I have reservations about the validity of this survey's summarized results.

The survey results formatted in this report state that the majority of Department of Defense personnel believe the repeal of DADT would have little or no effect on their units. This is interesting, but not overwhelmingly significant. Based on my experiences serving as an enlisted infantryman in the U.S. Army and a infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, I am as yet unconvinced the results of this survey clearly forecast the impact of a repeal of this policy.

Our nation is currently involved in two wars, so while it is laudable that the survey sought input from all military occupational fields in the armed forces, the most important goal of the survey should have been to judge the impact of repealing DADT on our warfighters. To that end, no group is more important at this critical time than those on the 'tip of the spear' who serve in the infantry of the U.S. Army and Marines. The results of these groups' views were not specifically provided. Therefore, I am officially requesting that the actual survey results from the leaders - noncommissioned and commissioned officers - who serve in the infantry occupational field (11B series in the Army and 0300 series in the Marine Corps) be broken down by each grade and released.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and prompt attention to this critical matter for our nation's warfighters.

Sincerely,



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress