



Air Force Association

1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22209-1198 (703) 247-5800 www.afa.org
An Independent Nonprofit Aerospace Organization

May 21, 2010

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Minority Leader
United States Capitol, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Minority Leader Boehner:

The Air Force Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization representing approximately 120,000 current and former Airmen and their families, is writing to express our opposition to using the FY11 National Defense Authorization Act as a vehicle to change federal policy on homosexual men and women serving in the military.

The so-called "Don't Ask Don't Tell" (DADT) policy has been the law of the land for the last 17 years. During that time, it has provided an overwhelmingly conflict-free environment for our service personnel in which to serve and live together. Those who serve must be our key constituency, and our efforts must ultimately be to ensure they are ready and able to discharge their responsibilities. Thus, we believe it would be unwise to change such an important policy without having heard from those it will affect. AFA strongly believes their views and values must factor into any legislative changes, as they will drastically alter the identity of our military on all levels of the spectrum. This is exactly why the Department of Defense is conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the policy, and evaluating the possible outcomes for those who choose to wear the uniform.

Making changes to this controversial and foundational policy before the DoD has had time to conduct its ongoing assessment – in the midst of two wars and at a time when military success in Iraq and Afghanistan is far from assured – is a risky proposition that we believe to be an unwise course of action. We ask that you work to ensure the preferences of the House Armed Services Committee on the NDAA – which was favorably reported out of committee unanimously by a vote of 59-0 – be preserved by rejecting efforts to repeal DADT.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Dunn
Lt Gen, USAF (ret)
President and CEO