

May 21, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
Room H-232, Capitol Bldg
Washington, DC 20515-6501

The Honorable John A. Boehner
House Minority Leader
Room H-204, Capitol Bldg
Washington, DC 20515-6537

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner:

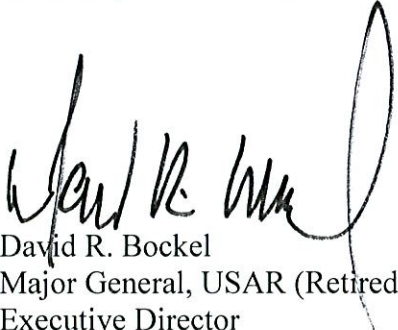
Reports in the press indicate that legislation is being considered to repeal the Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) law before the end of the 111th Congress. The National Defense Authorization Act might be amended to accomplish this.

The Reserve Officers Association, representing 63,000 Reserve Component members, does not support such hasty action. This issue is very polarizing, and can cause internal strife within our military at a time we are fighting in two theaters of a war.

A letter was sent from the Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ike Skelton, requesting that Congress take no legislative action on DADT, until the Pentagon completes "thorough, objective and systematic assessment of the effects of such a repeal on our serving members. The letter was cosigned by Admiral Michael Mullen, who has been vocal on this issue. ROA leadership concurs with this request.

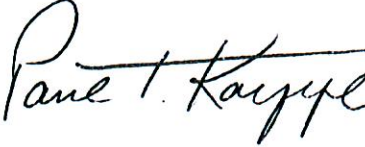
If serving members and their families are not given an opportunity to provide feedback as part of the process, there will not be buy-in to changes in policy which could have a detrimental effect on morale and discipline of our fighting men and women.

Thank you for being open on this key issue, support of our military leadership is vital, before any changes are made. Please feel free to have your staff call ROA's legislative director, Marshall Hanson, at 202-646-7713 or e-mail him at mhanson@roa.org with any further questions that either of you have on ROA's position on this topic.



David R. Bockel
Major General, USAR (Retired)
Executive Director

Sincerely,



Paul T. Kayye
Rear Admiral, USN (Retired)
National President