



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

May 26, 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the 152,000 members and affiliates of the American Psychological Association (APA), I am writing to ask for your support of Representative Patrick Murphy's amendment to H.R. 5136, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. This amendment would repeal the Defense Department policy concerning homosexuality (10 U.S.C. § 654), also referred to as the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. APA is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States. Comprising researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants, and students, APA works to advance psychology as a science, as a profession, and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare.

APA has a long-standing involvement with the U.S. military in support of efforts to promote national security and the well-being of service members and their families. Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community positively contribute to U.S. military efforts around the world at a time when our armed forces are engaged in various conflicts.

We strongly oppose the current "Don't ask, don't tell" policy for lesbian and gay persons in military service. This stance reflects the APA Policy Statement on Sexual Orientation and Military Service, adopted by the APA Council of Representatives in July 2004. This policy reaffirms our association's opposition to discrimination based on sexual orientation and our commitment to disseminate scientific knowledge to ameliorate the negative effects of the current law through training and education.

We urge Congress to move swiftly to end the restrictions on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military, especially in light of the decades of scientific research demonstrating no threat to military readiness or morale. Please support the Murphy Amendment when it is considered on the House floor this week. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Stefanie Reeves, MA, in our Public Interest Government Relations Office, at (202) 336-6061 or sreeves@apa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Keita".

Gwendolyn Puryear Keita, Ph.D.
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