

**SCPD Issues & Education Committee**  
**End the Military Ban on Gays/Lesbians/Bisexuals/Transgenders**

The military policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) prohibits gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender service members from military service if they are open and honest about their sexuality. The Military Readiness Enhancement Act (HR 1246) would amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the readiness of the Armed Forces by replacing the current policy concerning homosexuality in the Armed Forces, referred to as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", with a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

- Passing HR 1246 would increase the pool of recruits to the armed forces substantially.
- It would save funds currently wasted by discharging service members who are trained and capable but not allowed to serve.
  - Over 10,000 servicemembers have been discharged under DADT (per the General Accounting Office) since it was enacted in 1993 costing taxpayers anywhere from \$200 million to \$360 million
- The Wall Street Journal Online published a Harris Poll on Feb. 2, 2007 showing that the majority of Americans are in favor of allowing LGBT citizens to serve openly
  - 55% of Americans polled said gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly vs 48% in 2000.
  - 57% agreed when asked: "Recently, retired general John Shalikashvili, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, wrote that he believes if gays and lesbians served openly in the United States military, they would not undermine the efficacy of the armed forces. Do you agree or disagree with him?"
- A Zogby International poll conducted in Oct 2006 of military members showed that there is support to overturn the ban on GLBT service members.
  - Three out of four members of the military who are serving in Iraq or recently returned home say they don't care if someone in their unit is gay.
  - They also said that if the military allowed gays to server openly it would have had no effect on their decision to enlist.
  - Nearly one in four U.S. troops say they know for sure that someone in their unit is gay or lesbian
    - of those, 59% said they learned about the person's sexual orientation directly from the individual
- Allowing GLBT citizens to serve openly would eliminate or greatly reduce the need for the "back door draft" on current (heterosexual) service members.

Respectfully submitted,  
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