



THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
CHIEF OF STAFF, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON DC



MEMORANDUM FOR ALMAJCOM/CC  
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SUBJECT: Don't Ask Don't Tell Legislative Action

In March, the Department of Defense began its Comprehensive Review of the complex issues that would accompany repeal of 10 U.S.C. 654, which established the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. While this review is ongoing, Congress is considering legislation to repeal the current law.

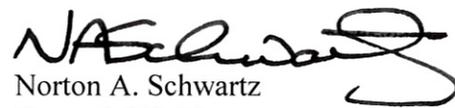
The legislation now being considered by the Congress would have no immediate effect on current policy. It also does not affect current study efforts, nor will it presuppose the content of the Comprehensive Review. The goal remains to understand all of the issues and potential effects that could be associated with repeal of the law. Both the House and Senate versions currently under consideration would require, as a condition of repeal, that the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff certify that:

- a. they have considered the recommendations from the Comprehensive Review;
- b. the Department has prepared the necessary policies and regulations to implement the repeal of 10 U.S.C. 654; and
- c. the implementation of this repeal is consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention of the Armed Forces.

Any future policy and its implementation will be informed by the insights that Airmen and their families provide.

Therefore, in communicating with your commands, please reinforce the continued importance of Airmen's opinions, as well as those of their families. The Comprehensive Review presents the opportunity and fulfills the obligation to constructively participate in the process. It is important we encourage their participation and that they provide their candid, individual perspectives.

  
Michael B. Donley  
Secretary of the Air Force

  
Norton A. Schwartz  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff

  
JAMES A. ROY  
Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force