

Coffman Statement on DADT Repeal

(WASHINGTON) - Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) issued the following statement regarding the House vote today on legislation to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. Coffman remains deeply concerned that the recent Department of Defense survey results on the policy's repeal did not adequately assess and detail the impact repeal will have on warfighters at the "tip of the spear":

"I'm concerned about the impact of reversing Don't Ask Don't Tell on our combat forces at the tip of the spear. According to the Defense Department Study, the opposition to repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell greatly increases when you move from the Air Force and the Navy to the Army and the Marine Corps and it increases again as you separate ground combat troops from combat support units."

"I've sent a letter to the Secretary of Defense asking for a further breakdown in considering the responses of infantry leaders, noncommissioned officers and officers in both the Army and in the Marine Corps, and I would imagine that their opposition would be overwhelming. These are the troops we have sent to do the toughest fighting and who have suffered the majority of the casualties in both Afghanistan and Iraq disproportionate to their numbers."

In his November 30, 2010 letter to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates Coffman requested that the actual survey results from the leaders – noncommissioned and commissioned officers – who serve in the infantry occupational fields (11B series in the Army and 0300 series in the Marine Corps) be broken down by each grade and released. Coffman believes these granular survey results will provide a deeper understanding that a broad aggregation of survey data may conceal. He has yet to receive a response from the Defense Department.

Coffman served in both the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps and is the only member of Congress to have served in both the first Gulf War and the Iraq War.

To view the letter, [click here](#) .

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