“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is a Statute Mandating the Dismissal of any Service Member who is Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual:

- “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is a ban on lesbians, gays* and bisexuals serving in the military — similar to policies in place for the past fifty years.
- There is no other law in the United States that mandates an employer to fire someone for being gay.
- The Pentagon has discharged more than 11,000 service members since the law was implemented in 1994.
- “Don’t Ask” is a myth, as service members ask each other about their private lives every day.
- An honest statement of one’s sexual orientation to anyone, anywhere, anytime is grounds for discharge.

The Movement to End the Ban on Gays in the Military:

- On February 28, 2007, 110 bi-partisan Members of Congress re-introduced the Military Readiness Enhancement Act. The bill would repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and replace it with a policy of non-discrimination in our armed forces.
- Many retired general and admirals support repealing “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” including GEN John Shalikashvili, USA (Ret.), MG Vance Coleman, USA (Ret.), LTG Claudia Kennedy, USA (Ret.), BG Evelyn “Pat” Foote, USA (Ret.), BG Keith H. Kerr, CSMR (Ret.), BG Virgil A. Richard, USA (Ret.), MG Charles Starr, Jr., USAR (Ret.), RADM John Hutson, USN (Ret.) and RADM Alan M. Steinman, USPHS/USCG (Ret.).
- Other senior military leaders support repeal of the military’s ban, including MCPOG Vincent W. Patton III, USCG (Ret.), former Assistant Secretary of Defense Lawrence Korb, the late former Navy Secretary and Senator John Chafee and former Assistant Secretary of Defense Edward Dorn.

Banning Gays Hurts Military Readiness:

- Military readiness is best served by recruiting and retaining the best and brightest young Americans into military service. “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” hurts military readiness by discouraging thousands of talented and patriotic Americans from military service.
- Post-September 11, 2001 operations in Afghanistan and Iraq strain the force, making it increasingly hard to meet recruiting goals. Allowing gay people to serve would help alleviate the strain on military personnel by making more people eligible to serve or to continue serving.
- The military has discharged at least fifty-five Arabic linguists and nine Farsi linguists under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in the last five years. Discharging linguists because they are gay hurts military readiness. “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” has forced the Pentagon to discharge nearly 800 vital personnel critical for national security, including linguists and military intelligence analysts, according to a 2005 GAO report.

Pentagon and Government Studies Support Gays in the Military:

- A 1993 RAND report provided an exhaustive study of gays in the military and concluded that the U.S. military could lift the gay ban without detriment to readiness.
- The PERSERE reports (1988, 1989) concluded that (1) there was no empirical evidence to support the gay ban and (2) there was no empirical data to suggest that gays differed from heterosexuals on any performance measure.

DoD Discharge Data Shows Gay Discharges Fell by Over 40% Since War on Terrorism:

- Since 2001, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” discharges have declined by almost half.
- During every major military mobilization, gay discharges have dropped, including Operation Iraqi Freedom, Persian Gulf War, Vietnam, Korea and World War II.