



RESOURCES FOR REPEALING “DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL”¹

- H.R. 1059, Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005
- Section-by-Section Analysis of H.R. 1059 & Talking Points
- Sample House Letter
- Sample Senate Letter
- Face-to-Face Lobby Tips
- University of Rhode Island’s Resolution
- Information on SLDN’s annual Lobby Day (May 14-16, 2006) and Lavender Law 2006 (September 7-9)
- Where to find other useful resources:

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network:

<http://www.sldn.org>

Protest & Amelioration Materials:

<http://www.law.georgetown.edu/solomon/smaterials.html>

Current List of Congressional Co-sponsors:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:HR01059:@@@P>

Other Resolutions to Repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”:

<http://www.sldn.org/templates/action/index.html?section=152>

Human Rights Campaign’s Congressional Scorecard:

http://www.hrc.org/Content/NavigationMenu/HRC/Get_Informed/Congress_and_Scorecard/Index.htm

Congressional E-mails (and other contact information):

<http://www.house.gov/writerep/> (House);

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm (Senate)

Fact Sheets, Talking Points and Research on “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”:

<http://www.sldn.org/templates/dont/index.html>

Online Petition to “Lift the Ban”:

http://ga1.org/campaign/Lift_the_Ban_Petition_March_2006

Most Recent Pew Poll on “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”:

<http://people-press.org/reports/display.php3?ReportID=273> (60% support open service; up from 54% in 1994)

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy Brief:

<http://www.thetaskforce.org/theissues/issue.cfm?issueID=19>

¹ Special thanks to Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) for contributing many of the resources included in this packet. For additional information contact Kara Suffredini (ksuffredini@theTaskForce.org) at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force or Sharon Alexander (sea@sldn.org) at SLDN.

H.R. 1059, Military Readiness Enhancement Act
(http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_bills&docid=f:h1059ih.txt.pdf)

109th Congress
1st Session
H.R. 1059

To 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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 2, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FARR, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. LEE, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. STARK, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WEXLER, and Ms. WOOLSEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To 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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005'.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to institute in the Armed Forces a policy of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation.

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF 1993 POLICY CONCERNING HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE ARMED FORCES.

The following provisions of law are repealed:
(1) Section 654 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) Subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 571 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (10 U.S.C. 654 note).

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) Establishment of Policy- (1) Chapter 37 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

Sec. 656. Policy of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation

(a) Policy- The Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, may not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation against any member of the armed forces or against any person seeking to become a member of the armed forces.

(b) Discrimination on Basis of Sexual Orientation- For purposes of this section, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is--

(1) in the case of a member of the armed forces, the taking of any personnel or administrative action (including any action relating to promotion, demotion, evaluation, selection for an award, selection for a duty assignment, transfer, or separation) in whole or in part on the basis of sexual orientation; and

(2) in the case of a person seeking to become a member of the armed forces, denial of accession into the armed forces in whole or in part on the basis of sexual orientation.

(c) Personnel and Administrative Policies and Action- The Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, may not establish, implement, or apply any personnel or administrative policy, or take any personnel or administrative action (including any policy or action relating to promotions, demotions, evaluations, selections for awards, selections for duty assignments, transfers, or separations) in whole or in part on the basis of sexual orientation.

(d) Rules and Policies Regarding Conduct- Nothing in this section prohibits the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, from prescribing or enforcing regulations governing the conduct of members of the armed forces if the regulations are designed and applied without regard to sexual orientation.

(e) Re-Accession of Otherwise Qualified Persons Permitted- Any person separated from the armed forces for homosexuality, bisexuality, or homosexual conduct in accordance with laws and regulations in effect before the date of the enactment of this section, if otherwise qualified for re-accession into the armed forces, shall not be prohibited from re-accession into the armed forces on the sole basis of such separation.

(f) Sexual Orientation- In this section, the term 'sexual orientation' means heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality, whether the orientation is real or perceived, and includes statements and consensual sexual conduct manifesting heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.'

(2) The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended--

(A) by striking the item relating to section 654; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new item:

'656. Policy of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation in the armed forces.'

(b) Conforming Amendments- Title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Section 481 is amended--

(A) In subsection (a)(2), by inserting ', including sexual orientation discrimination,' after 'discrimination' in subparagraphs (C) and (D); and

(B) in subsection (c), by inserting 'and sexual orientation-based' after 'gender-based'.

(2) Section 983(a)(1) is amended by striking '(in accordance with section 654 of this title and other applicable Federal laws)'.

(3) Section 1034(i)(3) is amended by inserting 'sexual orientation,' after 'sex,'.

SEC. 5. BENEFITS.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to require the furnishing of dependent benefits in violation of section 7 of title 1, United States Code (relating to the definitions of 'marriage' and 'spouse' and referred to as the 'Defense of Marriage Act').

SEC. 6. NO PRIVATE CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DAMAGES.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to create a private cause of action for damages.

SEC. 7. REGULATIONS.

(a) In General- Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall revise Department of Defense regulations, and shall issue such new regulations as may be necessary, to implement section 656 of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 4(a). The Secretary of Defense shall further direct the Secretary of each military department to revise regulations of that military department in accordance with section 656 of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 4(a), not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Such revisions shall include the following:

- (1) Revision of all equal opportunity and human relations regulations, directives, and instructions to add sexual orientation nondiscrimination to the Department of Defense Equal Opportunity policy and to related human relations training programs.
- (2) Revision of Department of Defense and military department personnel regulations to eliminate procedures for involuntary discharges based on sexual orientation.
- (3) Revision of Department of Defense and military department regulations governing victims' advocacy programs to include sexual orientation discrimination among the forms of discrimination for which members of the Armed Forces and their families may seek assistance.

(b) Regulation of Conduct- The Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, shall ensure that regulations governing the personal conduct of members of the Armed Forces shall be written and enforced without regard to sexual orientation.

(c) Definition- In this section, the term 'sexual orientation' has the meaning given that term in section 656(f) of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 4(a).

END

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS
MILITARY READINESS ENHANCEMENT READINESS ACT
(courtesy of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network)

Section 1. Short Title. Section 1 provides the short title for the legislation. The “Military Readiness Enhancement Act” is the working title for this legislation.

Section 2. Purpose. Section 2 identifies the purpose of the legislation, which is to repeal 10 U.S.C. 654 and replace it with a new policy of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Armed Forces.

Section 3. Repeal of 1994 Policy Concerning Homosexuality in the Armed Forces. This section repeals the current law, 10 U.S.C. 654.

Section 4. Policy of Non-Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation in the Armed Forces.

(a). Establishment of Policy. This section establishes a new law prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in the Armed Forces.

(1). This section provides for a policy of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Armed Forces, to be titled 10 U.S.C. 656.

(a) Policy. Subsection (a) provides the new policy statement, prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination within the Armed Forces and among people seeking entry into the Armed Forces.

(b) Discrimination on the Basis of Sexual Orientation. This subsection provides a non-exclusive list of what constitutes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the Armed Forces. For current members of the Armed Forces, this section includes within the definition of sexual orientation discrimination any personnel or administrative action taken in whole or in part on the basis of sexual orientation. For applicants for military service, denial of accession made in whole or in part on the basis of sexual orientation constitutes sexual orientation discrimination.

(c) Personnel and Administrative Policies and Action. This section prohibits the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating under the Navy, from establishing, implementing or applying any personnel or administrative policies, or taking any personnel or administrative action, in whole or in part on the basis of sexual orientation. It is designed to prevent the military from re-instituting discriminatory policies once “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is repealed.

(d) Rules and Policies Regarding Conduct. This language is modeled on ENDA’s Section 11(a), “Construction: Employer Rules and Policies.” It is intended to clarify that nothing in the legislation will prevent the military from continuing to regulate the conduct of its members, as long as any such regulation is written and enforced in a sexual orientation-neutral manner.

(e) Re-accession of Otherwise Qualified Persons Permitted. This language provides the opportunity for persons discharged for homosexuality or homosexual conduct under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” or its predecessor regulations to re-apply for entry into the Armed Forces. The “otherwise qualified” language makes clear that there is no absolute right of re-entry for anyone discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” or the predecessor regulations. For example, age and physical requirements to re-enter the military would still be applied to persons who wished to reenter the Armed Forces under this provision.

(f) Sexual Orientation. Sexual orientation is defined as “heterosexuality, bisexuality, or homosexuality, whether the orientation is real or perceived, and includes statements and consensual sexual conduct manifesting heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.” The first part of this definition comes from the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, and as such has the benefit of widespread familiarity among members of Congress. It is consistent with most state law definitions of sexual orientation. It is consistent with although broader than the only current federal statutory definition of sexual orientation, which appears in 28 U.S.C. 534, the federal hate crimes reporting statute. This definition is “consensual homosexuality or heterosexuality.”

The second part of the definition is meant to ensure that the gap created between status and conduct through the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy will not persist beyond the policy’s repeal. Military discharges based on statements of sexual orientation or conduct manifesting homosexual or bisexual orientation form the basis of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” The distinction is cemented in case law challenging the ban on constitutional grounds. Without the second part of this definition, it is possible Defense Department officials could effectively continue a policy of discriminating based on statements or conduct, versus sexual orientation per se.

(2). Section 4 subsection (a)(2) provides the necessary changes to the table of contents to reflect the deletion of 10 U.S.C. 654 and the addition of 10 U.S.C. 656.

(b). Conforming Amendments. Section 4 subsection (b) provides the conforming amendments required by the new legislation.

(1). Subsection (b)(1) adds sexual orientation discrimination to a list of issues statutorily mandated for quadrennial surveys by the Department of Defense.

(2). Subsection (b)(2) modifies the Solomon Amendment to remove the reference to 10 U.S.C. 654 and related laws. It is unclear whether the Solomon Amendment will have any relevance once the current Section 654 is repealed. However, the consequence of leaving 10 U.S.C. 983 as it is would be the possibility that certain schools might prohibit military recruiters from their campuses because of the military’s new policy of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation.

(3). Subsection (b)(3) adds sexual orientation to the definition of “unlawful discrimination” in the code provision prohibiting retaliatory personnel actions.

Section 5. Benefits. This provision makes clear that this legislation does not require the military to provide dependent benefits in violation of the Defense of Marriage Act.

Section 6. No Private Cause of Action for Damages. This section makes clear that this legislation does not create a private cause of action for damages.

Section 7. Regulations. This section provides the authority to issue regulations implementing this legislation and gives guidance as to the content of those regulations.

(a). In General. The Secretary of Defense has 90 days following enactment of the legislation to issue Department of Defense regulations implementing the legislation, and must direct each service to revise its regulations no later than 180 days after the enactment of the legislation. Regulations which must be amended include but are not limited to:

(1). All Equal Opportunity and Human Relations regulations, directives, and instructions and training guidance;

(2). Personnel regulations governing involuntary discharges;

(3). Victim’s advocacy regulations to include sexual orientation discrimination among the forms of discrimination for which members of the Armed Forces and their families may seek assistance. This provision is intended to ensure that victims of sexual orientation-based hate violence and sexual orientation discrimination can access Victims’ Advocacy programs to the same extent that other victims of prohibited discrimination and hate violence can.

(b). Regulation of Conduct. This provision mandates the regulations governing service members’ conduct be written and enforced without regard to sexual orientation. It is essentially a reiteration of Section 3 (c), but we think it is important that this concept appear in both the policy section and the regulation section of the legislation as a political matter.

(c). Definition. This section provides reference to the new 10 USC 656(f) for the definition of sexual orientation.

FACT SHEET
MILITARY READINESS ENHANCEMENT ACT (H.R. 1059)
(courtesy of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network)

On March 2, 2005 Rep. Martin Meehan (D-MA) with 57 original cosponsors and bipartisan support introduced the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (MREA) of 2005, H.R. 1059, in the House of Representatives. On that day, eight retired military generals and admirals announced their support for MREA, echoing the support of the general public.

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act – Improves Military Readiness

- Retains critical specialties. Almost 800 service members with skills deemed critical by the military have been discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” according to a 2005 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report. The military is firing Arabic linguists and intelligence analysts necessary to fight the war on terrorism, just because of their sexual orientation. Doctors, nurses, pilots, truck drivers, military police, infantrymen and service members from virtually every specialty in the Armed Forces are being terminated under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”
- Saves the U.S. military and taxpayers millions of dollars. According to a GAO report, it has cost \$200 million to replace service members fired under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” GAO admits that this is an incomplete estimate; the true cost is even higher.
- Stops the discharges of qualified service members solely because of their sexual orientation. Over 10,000 service members have been discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” MREA will provide desperately needed skilled personnel during this time of war, as many of the previously discharged personnel will be eligible to return to the military.
- Allows qualified, patriotic Americans to serve. MREA will expand the recruiting pool and encourage re-enlistment at a time when the Armed Forces are experiencing recruiting and retention shortfalls.

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act – Supports All Our Troops

- Over 65,000 lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans are currently serving in our nation’s Armed Forces. Many of them are in harms way today and each is prepared to die for our country. Each may also be fired if his or her sexual orientation is discovered.
- There are over 1 million lesbian, gay and bisexual veterans in the U.S. based on 2000 census data. Veterans must be honored and respected. “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” dishonors these veterans and their service to our country.
- “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is a law contrary to American values. Over two-thirds of Americans polled believe that gay Americans should be allowed to serve openly in our Armed Forces. Americans value honesty, integrity, patriotism, and selfless service over the prejudice of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act – How it Changes the Law

- Repeals the current law and policy known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (10 USC §654).
- Replaces “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” with a policy of non-discrimination in the military on the basis of sexual orientation.
- Supports regulations to maintain good order and discipline, provided the regulations are applied equally and without prejudice.
- Allows veterans to re-enlist who were fired under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” and its predecessors.

HOUSE SAMPLE LETTER
(courtesy of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network)

Sample Letter to Representative Asking Him/Her to Co-Sponsor H.R. 1059:

Honorable [Sally Smith]
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative [Smith]:

As your constituent, I urge you to support the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (HR 1059), to repeal the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" statute governing military service by lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans.

Only one law in the United States mandates firing someone because of his or her sexual orientation. That law is 10 U.S.C. 654, also known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and it applies to all Americans serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, including active duty, Reserve, and National Guard personnel. Over two million Americans serving in uniform today are bound by this discriminatory law; among them, an estimated 65,000 lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans in uniform live with the constant threat of career-ending discharge under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This is no way to treat patriotic Americans who volunteer to serve our nation in its time of need.

Over 10,000 Americans have been discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in the last twelve years - an average of two people per day. Our government has spent over \$200 million in tax payer dollars firing desperately needed military linguists, pilots, doctors, intelligence analysts, nurses and others with critical skills we need in this time of conflict. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is wasteful, discriminatory, and it's time has passed.

Please support H.R. 1059, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act by joining over 110 of your colleagues as a co-sponsor, and work to end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" now.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Address (where you are registered to vote)]

SENATE SAMPLE LETTER

(courtesy of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network)

Sample Email to Senator Asking Him/Her to Co-Sponsor H.R. 1059:

Honorable [Sally Smith]
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator [Smith]:

As your constituent, I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor legislation in the United States Senate to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" statute governing military service by lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans.

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" statute is the only federal law that mandates firing a person if they are discovered to be gay. The statute forces patriotic lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans who want to serve our country to compromise their integrity for their right to serve. No one willing to volunteer to serve in a time of war should have to sacrifice their right to be honest about who they are as a condition of their military service. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is a discriminatory law and it is wrong.

Over 10,000 people have been discharged since "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" became the law in 1993. This number includes dozens of Arabic and Farsi linguists, doctors, nurses, pilots, infantrymen, mechanics - over 800 people with skills for which the military currently suffers critical shortages. Women are discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" at twice the rate of their presence in the military, and the majority of people discharged under the policy are young - between the ages of 18 and 25 years old. "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has ruined thousands of talented young people's military careers, and cost our nation well over \$200 million over the last decade.

Despite the additional sacrifices required of gay Americans who choose to serve in the military, over one million lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans have served in our nation's Armed Forces. Their service deserves our respect and our gratitude. Repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" would be an appropriate way to begin to show that respect and gratitude.

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1059) was introduced in the House of Representatives in March of 2005. It would repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and replace it with a non-discrimination law. I urge you to co-sponsor similar legislation in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Address (where you are registered to vote)]

FACE-TO-FACE LOBBYING TIPS

(courtesy of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network)

- Have a 15-Minute Action Plan. You have 15 minutes—on average—to speak with a Member of Congress or a staffer. Be sure you know the first issue you will raise, the second, and the third. Using this plan, you'll be sure to discuss your most important issues before any possible interruption cuts the meeting short.
- Speak Plainly (Without Acronyms). Most grassroots lobbyists meet with staffers, not Members of Congress. Most staffers are in their early to mid-twenties, working in their first full-time job, and trying to understand as many as a dozen different issues. Whomever you meet with, chances are that person knows very little about your issues. So avoid using acronyms or jargon. The staffer and the Member may nod and grin at the right times, but may avoid showing their ignorance by asking you to define the acronym or term they don't understand.
- Make a Connection. Did you grow up in the same hometown as the Member or staffer? Graduate from the same college? Noting similarities in your background or any other areas of common interest—can be a great conversation starter. This technique is an effective way to break down the natural barrier that can exist when meeting with someone for the first time.
- Don't Do All the Talking. If the staffer or Member knows little about your issues, they usually are very happy to have you do all the talking. So be sure to occasionally ask questions—the kind that require more than a “yes” or “no” answer—to ensure your audience is receiving the message you are delivering.
- Beware of Senator Photo-Op. If a Member of Congress knows you're going to ask a very difficult question, one that requires an answer you may not like, be ready for all types of delay tactics. Your representative or senator may want to talk about national issues that have no bearing on your issues, or insist on getting a photo taken a delay tactic that can consume almost all your time. Take the photo—but only AFTER you have delivered your message.
- State Clearly What You Want the Member to Do. Many staffers and grassroots lobbyists can have an enjoy-able visit, but at the end the Member or staffer is often left asking, “What exactly do they want us to do?” Do you want a member to vote for or against a bill? Cosponsor a bill? Visit your business or government agency back home? Ask the question clearly and early in the conversation.
- Follow-Up for Success. To stand out from the dozens of grassroots and professional lobbyists who visit a congressional office in a typical week, be sure to follow up after your visit. Asking to meet with a Member or staffer again, back home, is just one way to extend the value. Mail a thank you letter immediately after your visit. Were questions asked that required information not available during the visit? Include the requested information in the letter. You can send other information, fact sheets, and new clips throughout the year. The keys are communicating several times a year, and delivering useful information. A single visit with a member of Congress or a staffer is only one small part of a good legislative campaign. Understand the limits of your 15 minutes of fame, and be sure to stay in touch.

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND RESOLUTION

On April 28, 2005 the Faculty Senate of the University of Rhode Island adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS

The University of Rhode Island is committed to furthering, to the fullest possible extent, the principles of full tolerance and respect for all individuals both on its own campus and in the state and nation beyond; and

WHEREAS

The University states, in its legally binding equal opportunity policy, that "The University of Rhode Island prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national origin, handicap, or sexual orientation, and discrimination against disabled and Vietnam Era veterans, in the recruitment, admission, or treatment of students . . ."; and

WHEREAS

There are questions and urgent concerns about our commitment to our principles when our policies are violated and not enforced with respect to sexual orientation, specifically the use of the office and services of Career Services on the URI campus by military recruiters and interviewers who must follow the so-called "Don't ask, don't tell" policy affecting gays in the military; yet

WHEREAS

The University is obliged to follow applicable Federal laws in this matter, putting us in conflict with our avowed principles;

THEREFORE

We urge vehemently that the President of the University inform the Rhode Island Congressional delegation of our opposition to the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy and to work with them and other Federal lawmakers to eliminate this policy in favor of one which does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

SLDN'S ANNUAL LOBBY DAY: MAY 14-16, 2006

Location: DoubleTree Hotel Washington, DC
1515 Rhode Island Ave NW
Washington, DC 20005
202-521-7171

Date: 5/14/2006 12:30 pm to 5/16/2006 7:00 pm (Eastern Time)

For more information email LobbyDay@sldn.org or call 202/328-3244 x101.

RSVP By: April 23, 2006 at 11:30 pm (Eastern Time)

LAVENDER LAW 2006: SEPTEMBER 7-9

Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street NW (at Connecticut Avenue)
Washington, DC 20008

Date: 9/7/2006 to 9/9/2006

For more information visit <http://www.LavenderLaw.org>