



PATRICK MURPHY

U. S. C O N G R E S S

To the many members of the National Stonewall Democrats across the country-

I want to personally thank each and every one of you for the incredible support you've shown me as we work to repeal the discriminatory policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". Working with ActBlue, you've been a tremendous ally to our cause, and you've made it clear to our elected leaders that the American public is serious about allowing brave men and women to serve their country openly, proudly, and honestly.

As you may know, I officially took over as the lead sponsor of H.R. 1283, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, in July. This important legislation will finally overturn the wrongful policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", a law which has only served to hurt our national security and our military readiness. In fact, over 13,000 service members have been discharged under DADT since 1993- the equivalent of three and a half combat brigades. At a time when our troops are stretched so thin in Iraq and Afghanistan, this is absolutely unacceptable.

Brave and talented service members who want defend our country are being discharged for nothing more than their sexual orientation. Almost 60 Arabic translators-who can make the very difference between life and death for our heroes in uniform- have been dismissed for nothing more than the fact that they're gay. This has to stop.

From my time as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne in Iraq, I can tell you without a doubt that when you are in a war zone, you don't care about the race, religion, color, or sexual orientation of the soldier standing next to you. You care if he or she can fire an M-4 assault rifle, kick down a door, and get the job done to bring everyone home alive.

Since taking the lead on the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", I have been greatly encouraged by the show of support I've received from patriotic Americans like all of you. I wanted to take this time to thank you. I'm thrilled to report that we now have 170 cosponsors on H.R. 1283, and we know that the momentum is on our side. But we can't let up now- change is tough, it doesn't come overnight, and we know that there is still much work to be done. I encourage you to stay in this fight with me, let your family and friends know about our work, write letters to the editor of your local paper, and contact your Representative to let them know how important their co-sponsorship is to our national security.

When Congress delivers the bill to President Obama's desk, we know that he will sign it into law, ending this discriminatory practice once and for all.

Thank you all for your continued support. I hope I make you proud, and I look forward to continuing the fight with you.



Patrick J. Murphy
Member of Congress

Patrick Murphy for Congress

P.O. Box 868 Levittown, PA 19058
Phone: 267 797 6400

Paid for by Patrick Murphy for Congress