

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt today issued the following statement after supporting the repeal “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” pending the conclusion of the Department of Defense review and certification by the President, Defense Secretary, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“Critics claim that allowing gays to serve in the military will damage morale. In fact, gays have served in our military since the American Revolution. The supposed ‘damaged morale’ didn’t lead to our losing to the Redcoats or surrendering to the Germans in two World Wars. Allowing gay Americans to serve openly won’t weaken morale in our armed forces. Rather, overturning the misguided Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy will strengthen our military and prevent the hemorrhage of critical talent from an already-overstretched American military engaged in two wars. President Truman was right to desegregate the Armed Forces more than half a century ago and we are right to ensure that LGBT soldiers finally can serve openly.”

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