

(Washington) – U.S. Rep. Rush Holt today issued the following statement after Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen presented the results of the Pentagon's 10-month review of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Based on the study and survey results, Gates and Mullen each urged the Senate to pass repeal legislation, which Holt and a majority of the House passed in May, and to send it to the President for his signature before the end of the year. A copy of the study can be found [here](#) .

“Those who cling to this misguided policy are running out of excuses. This study affirms that allowing gay Americans to serve openly won't weaken morale. Instead, I believe that overturning Don't Ask, Don't Tell will strengthen our military and prevent the hemorrhage of critical talent from an already-overstretched American military engaged in multiple wars and military actions around the globe. Military leaders know this, a majority of our men and women in uniform know this, a majority of Americans know this – it is now time for Congress once and for all to ensure that gay soldiers can serve openly.”

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