

May 21, 2010

The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515-6035

The Honorable Howard P. McKeon  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee  
2120 Rayburn House Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20515-6035

Dear Chairman Skelton and Ranking Member McKeon:

Please be advised that the following has been sent to Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Boehner.

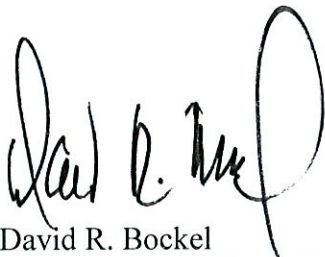
Reports in the press indicate that legislation is being considered to repeal the Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT) law before the end of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. The National Defense Authorization Act might be amended to accomplish this.

The Reserve Officers Association, representing 63,000 Reserve Component members, does not support such hasty action. This issue is very polarizing, and can cause internal strife within our military at a time we are fighting in two theaters of a war.

A letter was sent from the Secretary of Defense Robert Gates to House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ike Skelton, requesting that Congress take no legislative action on DADT, until the Pentagon completes "thorough, objective and systematic assessment of the effects of such a repeal on our serving members. The letter was cosigned by Admiral Michael Mullen, who has been vocal on this issue. ROA leadership concurs with this request.


If serving members and their families are not given an opportunity to provided feedback as part of the process, there will not be buy-in to changes in policy which could have a detrimental effect on morale and discipline of our fighting men and women.

Thank you for being open on this key issue, support of our military leadership is vital, before any changes are made. Please feel free to have your staff call ROA's legislative director, Marshall Hanson, at 202-646-7713 or e-mail him at [mhanson@roa.org](mailto:mhanson@roa.org) with any further questions that either of you have on ROA's position on this topic.



David R. Bockel  
Major General, USAR (Retired)  
Executive Director

Sincerely,



Paul T. Kayye  
Rear Admiral, USN (Retired)  
National President