



## Top Ten Reasons to Repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

1. **End discrimination.** No other law mandates firing someone because they are lesbian, gay or bisexual.
2. **Strengthen Military Readiness.** At a time when our armed forces are increasingly strained, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” has resulted in the discharge of over 11,000 service members, including dozens of Arabic linguists and hundreds of people with skills for which the military is experiencing critical shortages.
3. **Save Tax Payer Money.** A 2006 Blue Ribbon Commission report found that “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” caused the Pentagon to waste over \$360 million in taxpayer funds between 1994 and 2003.
4. **Honor Our Troops.** The at least 65,000 lesbian, gay, and bisexual Americans currently serve in the US Armed Forces, and one million veterans, should not be treated as second class citizens.
5. **Stop the Double-Standard.** “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” requires gay service members to hide the truth about who they are, which runs counter to the military’s ideals of honesty and integrity.
6. **Stand Up for Women.** While women comprise 15% of military personnel, they account for 30% of discharges under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”
7. **Join Our Allies.** American troops serve without incident side-by-side with personnel in foreign militaries and national security agencies which do not discriminate based on sexual orientation.
8. **Repeal the Hypocrisy.** Consistent with trends in past conflicts, discharges have dropped about 50% since 9/11.
9. **Listen to the Evidence.** Every report commissioned by the Federal government has concluded that the ban could be lifted without detriment to readiness.
10. **Do What’s Right.** Recent polls show about three-quarters of the American public believe that lesbians, gays, and bisexuals should be able to serve openly.

You can learn more about these and other reasons to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” at [sldn.org](http://sldn.org).