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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

RICHARD D. DEBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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September 28, 2010

The Honorable Robert M. Gates  
Secretary of Defense  
The Department of Defense  
The Pentagon, Suite 319  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Recent events regarding the Senate's consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 (S. 3454) and the unlikelihood that this legislation will be taken up until the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, provides an opportunity for the Department to reconsider the manner in which it is studying the advisability of changing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy. I urge you and Admiral Mullen to modify the review and the survey instrument, or to conduct supplemental surveys, aimed at ensuring that the question of whether the DADT policy should be changed is answered.

In my attached letter of April 23, 2010, I expressed my concerns about the manner in which the comprehensive review working group is proceeding. The condition that the Working Group presume that the policy will be repealed and the narrow focus on issues associated with implementation, i.e., "how" to implement a new policy, undermined the validity of the effort and the survey in particular.

It is essential – and I think it's clear that the Service Chiefs strongly agree with this point – that the survey provide the input needed to inform the Department and the Congress on the views and recommendations of those who will be most affected by this change, the men and women in uniform. I request that you take advantage of the time that is available to identify methods to ensure that the survey provides useful information.

Sincerely,



John McCain  
Ranking Member

Attachment:  
As Stated