

Flag & General Officers for the Military

Statement to: President Barack H. Obama and Members of Congress

**Subject: Support for the 1993 Law Regarding Homosexuals in the Military
(Section 654, Title 10, U.S.C.)**

Dear Mr. President and Members of Congress:

In 1993 Congress passed a law (Section 654, Title 10), affirming that homosexuality is incompatible with military service. The law passed with bipartisan, veto-proof majorities in both houses, and federal courts have upheld it as constitutional several times.

We believe strongly that this law, which Congress passed to protect good order, discipline, and morale in the unique environment of the military, deserves continued support.

The 111th Congress is likely to take up legislation to repeal the law (Section 654, Title 10) early in 2009. Our past experience as military leaders leads us to be greatly concerned about the impact of repeal on morale, discipline, unit cohesion, and overall military readiness. We believe that imposing this burden on our men and women in uniform would undermine recruiting and retention, impact leadership at all echelons, have adverse effects on the willingness of parents who lend their sons and daughters to military service, and eventually break the All-Volunteer Force.

As a matter of national security, we urge you to support the 1993 law regarding homosexuals in the military (Section 654, Title 10), and to oppose any legislative, judicial, or administrative effort to repeal or invalidate the law.

Very respectfully,

The Undersigned Flag & General Officers