

ACTION ALERT: OPPOSE REPEAL OF “DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL”

TO: State and Territorial Court Regents and Legislative Chairs
FROM: Margaret Sitte, National Legislative Chair, Catholic Daughters of the Americas
DATE: July 5, 2010

Action Requested: S. 3454 is expected to be on the Senate floor the week of July 12. Contact members of the U.S. Senate through e-mail, phone calls or FAX. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or call the local offices of your Senators. Full contact information can be found at www.senate.gov. Also make contact by meeting with Senators when they are home for the July 4 recess.

Message: “When the Senate debates the National Defense Authorization Act for 2011 (S. 3454), oppose the removal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.’ Allowing open homosexuals to serve in the military would promote immorality and jeopardize morale and cohesion.”

Background: Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for Military Services wrote a statement June 1 urging Congress not to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act for 2011. The U.S. House has already passed the repeal. Here are excerpts of Archbishop Broglio’s statement:

“In fulfilling my role as the chief shepherd of Catholics in the United States Armed Forces, I have had the opportunity of visiting many installations in the recent past. A number of chaplains and commanding officers have expressed concerns about the effects of a change.”

“The effect of a repeal of the current legislation has the potential of being enormous and overwhelming. Nothing should be changed until there is certainty that morale will not suffer. Sacrificing the moral beliefs of individuals or their living conditions to respond to merely political considerations is neither just nor prudent especially for the armed forces at a time of war.”

Citing paragraphs 2357 to 2359 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the archbishop said homosexuals deserve respect and must not be harassed or intimidated. “However, unions between individuals of the same gender resembling marriage will not be accepted or blessed by Catholic chaplains. Furthermore no restrictions or limitations on the teaching of Catholic morality can be accepted. First Amendment rights regarding the free exercise of religion must be respected.”

“This means that Catholic chaplains must show compassion for persons with a homosexual orientation, but can never condone—even silently—homosexual behavior.”

“What exactly is the meaning of a change? No one can deny that persons with a homosexual orientation are already in the military. Does the proposed change authorize these individuals to engage in activities considered immoral not only by the Catholic Church, but also by many other religious groups?”

“This Archdiocese exists to serve those who serve and it assists them by advocating moral behavior. The military must find ways to promote that behavior and develop strong prohibitions against any immoral activity that would jeopardize morale, good morals, unit cohesion and every other factor that weakens the mission.”

Full text of the letter can be found online at:

<https://milarch.org/inc/data/dontasklegislation%202.pdf>

Reminder: Make contact as an individual citizen using your name and address—not as a member of Catholic Daughters.

Approved: Libby Ramirez, National Regent