

Faith-Based Organizations Letter in Support of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2009
(H.R. 1283 & S. 3065)

April 28, 2010

Dear Senators and Representatives:

On behalf of our organizations, representing a diverse group of faith traditions and religious beliefs, we urge you to pass the Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2009 (MREA) this year. This long-overdue law will repeal the unjust and unwise Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) law, which prohibits lesbian and gay Americans from serving openly in the military.

We write because we strongly believe this policy of government-sanctioned discrimination is morally wrong and entirely contrary to the teachings and values of our faith communities.

Since DADT was adopted, more than 13,500 lesbian and gay service members have been discharged because of their sexual orientation. Their selfless service has been rewarded with humiliation, and their discharges fray the fabric of our communities. An estimated 66,000 lesbians and gays now serve in our armed forces, and are compelled to live dishonestly and in fear of termination for reasons unrelated to their performance. As faith leaders, we deal routinely with the damage such discrimination and fear imposes on our lesbian and gay sisters and brothers and their families. We believe the laws of our country should reflect the highest regard for integrity and care for our neighbors as we care for ourselves. Repeal of DADT will finally allow all service members to contribute their talents and skills to our country openly and honestly.

We urge you to recognize in law what the majority of Americans – Republicans, Democrats and Independents of many faiths – have recognized in their hearts: this discriminatory law is unjust and wrong and must end this year.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Baptists
American Conference of Cantors
American Friends Service Committee
Central Conference of American Rabbis
DignityUSA
Disciples Justice Action Network (Disciples of Christ)
The Episcopal Church
Equal Partners in Faith
The Fellowship
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Interfaith Alliance
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Lutherans Concerned/North America
Metropolitan Community Churches
More Light Presbyterians
National Black Justice Coalition
National Council of Jewish Women

Other Sheep: Multicultural Ministries with Sexual Minorities
Rabbinical Assembly
Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International
The Sikh Coalition
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Church of Christ, Wider Church Ministries
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism
Unity Fellowship Church Movement
Women of Reform Judaism