



CONGRESSMAN GARY G. MILLER

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA'S 42ND DISTRICT



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Rep. Gary Miller's Statement on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Repeal

WASHINGTON, DC – Last night, the House of Representative passed an amendment to the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by 234-194 to repeal the Clinton-era "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law and policy. Today, the House of Representatives passed the FY 2011 NDAA by a vote of 229-186. Following passage, Congressman Miller released the following statement:

"The Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have asked Congress to respect the process they developed to study the ramifications of repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Before making a decision on a sensitive issue that directly affects our military personnel, we have an obligation to honor that request and hear directly from the men and women who risk their lives on our behalf.

"The amendment passed by the House last night puts the cart before the horse by committing to repeal before Congress ever sees the contents of the Pentagon's report. It is a shame Congress has made this hurried move to appease certain constituencies without first hearing from those that put their lives on the line to protect our liberty. These 2.5 million men and women in uniform deserve to be heard.

"Because this liberal policy shift was included in the final version of the Fiscal Year 2011 National Defense Authorization Act, I reluctantly had to oppose the bill on final passage. This hasty decision by the Majority is an affront to the brave men and women who have served in the past and to those who have given their lives for this country. This decision also undermines those who have been fighting for the past eight years in Iraq and Afghanistan. As Memorial Day is in just a few days, this move does not demonstrate proper gratitude to the sacrifices our military has made."

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