



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

December 1, 2009

Senator D. Scott Dibble
111 State Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Dibble,

Thank you for your letter regarding your constituent's concerns about the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. As noted in your letter, Josh Gackle, my senior advisor on military matters, has met with Mr. Wesley Davey on this issue.

As you may know, this military policy is a federal issue. There is no legal authority granted to governors regarding this matter. Even as commander in chief of a state's National Guard, there is no authority for a governor to override or alter this federal military policy.

Thank you again for contacting my office. I appreciate your service to the citizens of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Pawlenty", written over a faint, illegible stamp.

Tim Pawlenty
Governor