



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

May 25, 2010

Senator Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
361-A Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman John Boehner  
House Minority Leader  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

I write to express concern about reports that some in Congress are considering amending the FY 11 Defense Authorization bill to overturn the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy without the benefit of the military's review of this issue.

Such an action would implement a major policy change. As you know, Guard units currently not only supplement active duty military units engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan, they also provide states with indispensable help in responding to domestic emergencies and natural disasters. The impacts upon Guard units and all military units need to be understood before any significant policy changes are decided.

It would be unwise for Congress to address this long-standing policy without the benefit of full hearings and the completion of the impact study being conducted by military leaders. I urge you to take no legislative action until the Department of Defense has completed its review and public hearings have been held to thoroughly discuss the findings.

I hope you will allow the review process being conducted by those with direct responsibility for leading our military to be completed before debating these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty  
Governor