



**NEWS FROM CONGRESSWOMAN
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Rep. Julia Carson “Repeal Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

Washington, DC – Rep. Julia Carson responded to yesterday’s comments by Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Peter Pace by affirming her dedication to ending discrimination against gays in our Armed Services.

“I disagree with the recent comments of General Pace regarding gays in the military; we really are not in a position to turn away patriotic Americans from duty with our Armed Services based on a personal life decision. While I respect General Pace and his service to our country, I also respect the service of the estimated 65,000 gays in the military today.” Carson said.

Carson’s views on this issue align with the views of former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Shalikashvili as expressed in his January 2, 2007 New York Times op-ed, “The question before us now is whether enough time has gone by [since “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”] to give this policy serious reconsideration. Much evidence suggests it has. This perception is supported by a new Zogby poll of more than 500 service members returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, three quarters of whom said they were comfortable interacting with gay people. And 24 foreign nations, including Israel, Britain and other allies in the fight against terrorism, let gays serve openly, with none reporting morale or recruiting problems.”.

Congresswoman Carson has long championed the rights of our Servicemen and Veterans and has also cosponsored legislation this Congress that would extend the ability of veterans to take advantage of the G.I. Bill.

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