

CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN, CHAIRMAN

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA  
JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT  
JACK REED, RHODE ISLAND  
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII  
BILL NELSON, FLORIDA  
E. BENJAMIN NELSON, NEBRASKA  
EVAN BAYH, INDIANA  
JIM WEBB, VIRGINIA  
CLAIRE MCCASKILL, MISSOURI  
MARK UDALL, COLORADO  
KAY R. HAGAN, NORTH CAROLINA  
MARK BEGICH, ALASKA  
ROLAND W. BURRIS, ILLINOIS  
JEFF BINGAMAN, NEW MEXICO  
EDWARD E. KAUFMAN, DELAWARE

JOHN MCCAIN, ARIZONA  
JAMES M. INHOFE, OKLAHOMA  
JEFF SESSIONS, ALABAMA  
SAXBY CHAMBLISS, GEORGIA  
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA  
JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA  
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI  
GEORGE S. LEMIEUX, FLORIDA  
SCOTT P. BROWN, MASSACHUSETTS  
RICHARD BURR, NORTH CAROLINA  
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA  
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE

RICHARD D. DEBOBES, STAFF DIRECTOR  
JOSEPH W. BOWAB, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

**United States Senate**  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

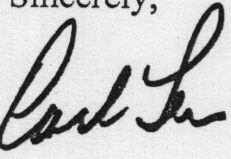
May 3, 2010

Honorable Robert M. Gates  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates,

I am writing about your direction to the Department of Defense General Counsel and Commander, US Army Europe to stand up an intra-Department, inter-service working group to conduct a comprehensive review of the issues associated with a repeal of section 654 of title 10, United States Code, the statute establishing the policy concerning homosexuality in the Armed Forces.

Is the purpose of this comprehensive review to determine "whether" to repeal the statute or is it to assess the issues related to "how" to implement a repeal of the statute?

Sincerely,  


Carl Levin  
Chairman

