

AMERICANS PREFER RETENTION OF GAYS-IN-THE-MILITARY LAW

Likely Voters Also Oppose Abortion in Military Hospitals

A new survey of 1,000 likely voters commissioned by the [Military Culture Coalition](#) (MCC) in July 2010 has called into question common assumptions about public support for legislation to repeal the 1993 law that is usually mislabeled “**Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell**” (DADT).

Support for the Current Law

- In addition to strong majorities indicating support for key passages of the 1993 law, **48%** of likely voters (**67%** Republican and **47%** Independent) preferred that Congress retain the law as it is. The overall **45%** of support for repeal was a full **30 points less** than the **75%** figure claimed in the March 2010 ABC News/*Washington Post* poll of adults.
- This survey gap suggests there is no public consensus for a rush to revoke the law. Only **1%** of respondents saw repeal as a priority for Congress and the President in 2010.
- With a margin of **26** percentage points, **57% to 31%** likely voters agreed that President Obama’s push for repeal is motivated primarily by **politics, not principle**.
- **Fifty-seven percent** of military personnel and family members surveyed said they support the current law. This percentage is almost identical to the annual *Military Times* poll of military subscriber/respondents four years in a row (2005-2008).
- Likely voters opposed allowing abortions in military hospitals by a margin of **49%-41%**.

Opposition to Activist Group Recommendations to Make the New Policy “Work”

- A majority of likely voters (**52%-37%**) opposed the imposition of **career penalties** on military personnel and chaplains who do not support homosexuality in the military.
- By a margin of **55%-40%**, likely voters **disagreed** that the “military should modify **training programs to promote acceptance of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons** in all military colleges and Defense Department schools.
- More voters (**48%-41%**) wanted Congress to give more deference to the four military service chiefs who support the current law, rather than to activist groups advocating repeal.

Political Perils of Voting for Legislation

- **Thirty percent** of likely voters said they would be *less* likely and **21% more** likely to vote for members of Congress and the Senate who vote to repeal the 1993 law.
- **43%** would be *less* likely and **21% more** likely to vote for their Members of Congress who vote for legislation authorizing abortions in military hospitals.

The full [MCC Survey Report](#) and [TOPLINE DATA](#) are available [here](#). The [Military Culture Coalition](#) is a network of major groups organized by the [Center for Military Readiness](#), an independent, non-partisan public policy organization that specializes in military/social issues.