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## **NEWS RELEASE**



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### **ANA APPLAUDS HOUSE ACTION TO REPEAL ‘DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL’**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** - The American Nurses Association (ANA) hailed yesterday’s vote by the U.S. House of Representatives to repeal the ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ policy and encourages the Senate to take swift action to end this discriminatory practice. ANA has a long history of opposing intolerance against gay and lesbian military members and has advocated for the right of registered nurses and others to remain in the military even if they openly acknowledge that they are gay or lesbian.

In 1992, ANA’s Board of Directors voted to oppose the policies of the United States Department of Defense (DOD) which prohibit gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military. This policy has resulted in the discharges of more than 13,000 men and women in uniform – thousands more have decided not to re-enlist. ANA strongly believes that the DOD’s long-standing policy of discriminating against military members, including nurses, because of their sexual orientation is inconsistent with nursing’s commitment to human rights.

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*The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations and its organizational affiliates. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.*