

May 27, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - In response to House Democrats only allowing ten minutes of debate on an amendment to repeal the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy, Congressman Todd Akin, Ranking Member of the Armed Services Seapower & Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee, released the following statement:

“Later today, Democrats will try to sneak by one of the biggest military policy changes in decades, forcing a liberal social agenda down the throats of our military.

“Instead of allowing the process that Secretary of Defense has asked for, and that all the senior leaders in the military support, House Democrats want to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell today, with only 10 minutes of debate. Only allowing 10 minutes of debate on something that the majority of the men and women in uniform oppose, and which the leaders of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps have said they oppose, is clearly an attempt to sneak this change by without the American people noticing.

“This policy change should only be considered in a thoughtful and careful manner, not rammed through by Congress. This change could have significant impact on recruiting, small unit cohesion, morale and national security overall. It poses significant

practical questions and rushing forward could cause significant problems for our military.

“Our military exists for winning wars, not for advancing a liberal social agenda. We should allow the military to go forward with the process they have asked for. The men and women in the military should be allowed to have a voice in this process, and their voice should be respected. This amendment tells those who put their lives on the line to protect our country that Congress doesn’t care what they think. Congress has ignored the voices of American citizens too often, and now we are ignoring the voices of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. This is unconscionable and must be stopped. The American people need to know that Democrats are once again trying to sneak something by and shove it down the throats of our military.”