

the people of her State, and all those who had the great privilege of knowing her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE NATION IS READY FOR IT: REPEAL "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, 69 years ago today, the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor was attacked. In the epic 4-year war that followed, millions of Americans served with honor and courage, and more than 400,000 lost their lives. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that many of them were gay.

Nearly seven decades later, it appears we are finally prepared to acknowledge publicly what we have known for so long: That gay and lesbian Americans have been part of the military, making invaluable contributions to our Nation's security, for as long as there has been a Nation to secure. We appear to be finally on the cusp of repealing the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy that has asked those who wear the uniform to lie about their very identities as a precondition of their service. As if we don't ask enough of them already.

Those who have continued to back this dreadful policy said earlier this year that they wanted to see the results of the Pentagon review before reconsidering their position. Well, that sober and empirical review was released last week, and it quite clearly concluded that repealing the policy would have minimal impact on military readiness or cohesion. But guess what, Mr. Speaker, that wasn't enough for the small minority of Don't Ask, Don't Tell supporters. Clinging to a fringe, reactionary, extremist position, they are unmoved by the Pentagon's findings. They say repeal would be premature, that to do anything but maintain the discriminatory status quo would be an irresponsible rush to judgment.

A rush to judgment? Gay soldiers have been forced into the closet for the entirety of American history. How much longer do we need to wait for fundamental fairness and equal treatment? How much longer must we endure a policy damaging our national security and hostile to American values?

Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell is anything but premature. It's long overdue. Repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell is also overwhelmingly popular. The President of the United States, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a

bipartisan congressional majority, veterans groups, not to mention most of the American people all support repeal. And now we know from the Pentagon report that 92 percent of servicemembers say the presence of a gay person would not affect their unit's ability to work together. And that last fact really shouldn't be surprising. I don't imagine that every single member of our Armed Forces is unambiguously enthusiastic about changing the policy, but I don't think every single member of our armed services is unambiguously enthusiastic about the meal they were served last night or this morning.

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My point is these men and women are dedicated professionals. They are sworn to protect the Nation. They follow orders and do their jobs as they did during the desegregation of the military. And they do this without regard to their personal values.

We can do this. We must do it. It will be far less daunting than President Truman's desegregation of the military. The Nation was far more racist in 1946 than it is homophobic in the year 2010.

It's time to repeal, Mr. Speaker, Don't Ask, Don't Tell. The Nation is ready for it. The military can handle it. Justice demands it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GRAYSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GRAYSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GOP DOCTORS CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60

minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thank you for your patience as we tried to get our act together here this evening, not realizing of course that here it is almost Christmastime, that our pages have all gone home. It reminds me of what a great, great job these young men and women do for the Members in so many ways, not the least of which is of course helping during these Special Order hours. But, Mr. Speaker, thank you for your patience.

I want to of course thank my leadership on the Republican side for allowing me and my colleagues in the House GOP Doctors Caucus to lead this Special Order for the next hour. And we are going to do that, Mr. Speaker, on health care and on the recently passed—I say "recently"; 10 months ago, March of this year—the passage of ObamaCare, now, I know, formally referred to as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

But this is a piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, that the American people, at the 60 percent plurality level, opposed and have remained here 10 months later, as certainly was seen in the results of the election on November 2. The American people felt that this was something that was forced upon them against their wishes, although they had a 2-year period of time to let not just our Democratic majority and President Obama, but every Member of Congress in both the House and the Senate understand not only that they were opposed to this bill but why they were opposed to it.

And, in fact, during this campaign, our Republican Party made a pledge to America on many things, not the least of which, of course, was to repeal this bill, this 2,400-page monstrosity that has done hardly any of the things that President Obama had hoped, wished, promised that it would effect. So we said to the American people, you give us an opportunity, you give us an opportunity to elect, to choose, to have John Boehner as the next Speaker of the House and give the Republicans an opportunity to lead, that we will repeal this bill.

So, Mr. Speaker, this evening I am very proud, as the cochairman with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Dr. TIM MURPHY, to chair the House GOP Doctors Caucus. There are about 11 current active members. That includes medical doctors, psychologists, dentists, people that were involved in health care before they came to this body as a profession. And I am telling you, I think most of our colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, that the number of years of clinical experience among this group is something like 350 years. Several of us have got a little gray hair around the temples.

But I think we have served a great purpose for our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make sure that everyone understands from a health care perspective what this bill has done, the