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Washington, DC - Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) issued the following statement in response to Congress' repeal of the Pentagon's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. The repeal finally put an end to the military's process of systemic discrimination against individuals who are openly gay and lesbian.

On May 27, 2010, when the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" vote was announced in the House chamber, Congresswoman McCollum presided as Speaker pro tempore in the House of Representatives.

"Discrimination is wrong and the U.S. House finally voted to repeal discrimination against a group of courageous Americans - men and women who proudly serve in the Armed Forces and defend our freedoms. For thousands of gay and lesbian veterans who were discharged from the military over the years, Congress has acted too late. Nonetheless I feel a debt of gratitude and honor for their service. Looking forward, I know a new generation of committed and patriotic gay and lesbian Americans will have the opportunity to serve our country proudly and openly."

Congresswoman Betty McCollum serves on the House Appropriations and Budget Committees.

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