



July 19, 2012

Dear Representative:

**RE: ACLU Urges NO Vote on King Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2013
Department of Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 5856)**

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), please find below our vote recommendation for today's possible House floor vote on the King (R-IA) Amendment to H.R. 5856, the FY 2013 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

This amendment, which says that none of the funds made available by the Act may be used in contravention of the discriminatory so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), is both unnecessary and redundant. The Department of Defense does not need Congress to tell it that it cannot use funding in violation of the law. While there are multiple legal challenges to DOMA working their way through the federal courts, it is still the law of the land. The Department of Defense, like all federal agencies, is bound to uphold the law. The King Amendment serves absolutely no purpose other than to score election year political points at the expense of gay and lesbian couples and their families.

Further, with President Obama and many members of Congress in support of a complete legislative repeal of the law, it is improper to attempt to tack unnecessary language restating DOMA's application into legislation that addresses the critical needs of all our troops.

The ACLU urges members to vote NO on the King Amendment to H.R. 5856 if and when it comes to the House floor for a vote.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Legislative Representative Ian Thompson at (202) 715-0837 or ithompson@dcaclu.org.

Sincerely,

Laura W. Murphy
Director, Washington Legislative Office

Ian S. Thompson
Legislative Representative

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION
WASHINGTON
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE
915 15th STREET, NW, 6TH FL
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
T/202.544.1681
F/202.546.0738
WWW.ACLU.ORG

LAURA W. MURPHY
DIRECTOR

NATIONAL OFFICE
125 BROAD STREET, 18TH FL.
NEW YORK, NY 10004-2400
T/212.549.2500

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
SUSAN N. HERMAN
PRESIDENT

ANTHONY D. ROMERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROBERT REMAR
TREASURER