

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2010

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Gates:

We are writing to express our concern regarding the case of Sara Isaacson, a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and former United States Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadet. According to an April 23rd article in *The Daily Tar Heel*, Isaacson wrote a letter to her commander revealing her sexual orientation just before her graduation and commissioning ceremony. Her commander, who described her as a "great young American," was forced by the Department of Defense regulation known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) to release Sara from her contract. As a result, Isaacson will not be commissioned as an officer in the US Army and now owes the US Army approximately \$80,000- the amount of scholarship money paid to UNC under her ROTC contract.

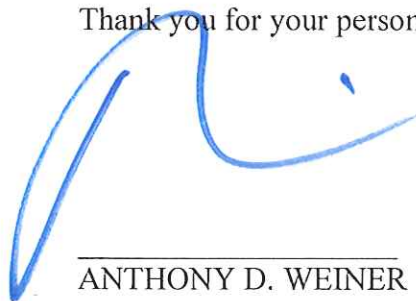
It is our feeling that the practice of billing cadets expelled from the ROTC program solely because of their sexual orientation for their tuition adds insult to injury. Denying brave men and women such as Ms. Isaacson the opportunity to serve their country because of their sexual orientation is an affront to their human dignity and a disservice to the Armed Forces as an institution, as a growing number of senior military and civilian defense officials have expressed.

We believe that Ms. Isaacson's case vividly illustrates the need to repeal the discriminatory DADT policy once and for all. Just as importantly, Ms. Isaacson's case raises serious questions about how DADT is being enforced in ROTC units on college campuses across the country. You have stated personally that DoD should find ways to enforce DADT as humanely as possible, pending its full repeal. Requiring a graduating college student who has served with distinction to assume \$80,000 in debt for revealing her sexual orientation does not strike us as humane.

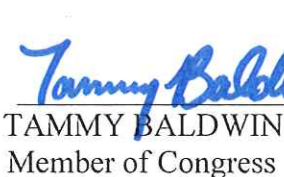
We respectfully request a full study to account for how many other ROTC cadets this policy has affected since 1993.

Thank you for your personal attention to this matter, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



ANTHONY D. WEINER
Member of Congress



TAMMY BALDWIN
Member of Congress



DAVID PRICE
Member of Congress