

November 13, 2006

The Honorable David S. C. Chu  
Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness  
4000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-4000

Dear Dr. Chu:

I am writing to you as a follow-up to a letter that I sent to Secretary Rumsfeld dated June 19, 2006 that was referred to your office. The letter asked that a classification in Instruction 1332.38 regarding homosexuality be changed so that it not be included in a list of mental disorders.

The Department's response to that letter was to remove homosexuality from that list and move it into a list of "conditions, circumstances and defects" in Enclosure 5 of Department of Defense Instruction 1332.38. It is my strong belief that homosexuality is in no way a defect and that there is no scientific reason to include it in such a list. In fact, the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) stance is that: "homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social and vocational capabilities."

I appreciate your responsiveness to my last letter, but I would request that you delete the word "defect" from the list header or clearly distinguish between what you consider a defect, and what you do not consider a defect.

I appreciate your attentiveness to this matter and look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, or if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at (202) 225-3411.

Sincerely,

Marty Meehan  
Member of Congress