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Don't Ask Don't Tell and the URI Community

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DON'T ASK DON'T TELL
PUBLIC LAW 103-60/U.S CODE 10 SEC 654
PUBLIC OPINION ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
RHODE ISLAND

ORIGINS

- CURRENT POLICY WAS CREATED IN 1993 BY THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION.
- REPLACED SYSTEM OF ASKING FOR SEXUAL ORIENTATION ON MILITARY APPLICATIONS.

KEY POINTS

- **APPLICANTS FOR MILITARY SERVICE WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO REVEAL THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.**
- **THE CONSTRAINTS OF MILITARY SERVICE REQUIRE SERVICE MEMBERS TO NOT REVEAL CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THEIR PERSONAL LIVES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GROUP.**
- **COMMANDERS AND INVESTIGATING PARTIES WILL NOT LAUNCH INVESTIGATIONS SOLELY TO DETERMINE A MEMBER'S SEXUAL ORIENTATION.**
- **HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT IS A HOMOSEXUAL ACT, A STATEMENT BY A SERVICE MEMBER THAT DEMONSTRATES AN INTENT TO ENGAGE IN A HOMOSEXUAL ACT, OR A HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE.**
- **SERVICE MEMBERS WILL BE SEPERATED FOR HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT**

THE SURVEY

- Do you believe that same sex couples in the general American population should be accorded the opportunity of marriage with all of the benefits that heterosexual couples have?
YES NO DON'T KNOW
- Due to the nature of military service there is a concern that openly homosexual conduct amongst the ranks will adversely affect “good order and discipline” within military units. Do you agree that good order and discipline will be adversely affected?
YES NO DON'T KNOW
- Many gay rights activists have called for the removal of ROTC from the nations campuses because the Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy violates many University's non-discrimination policies. Do you agree that removing ROTC from University campuses is an effective way of changing the Don't ask Don't Tell Policy?
YES NO DON'T KNOW
- Approximately 60% of all Army officers graduate from a ROTC program. Given that such a large percentage of officers graduate from ROTC on civilian college campuses, what impact do you believe a civilian education will have on future officer's attitudes towards the Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy?
MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT NO CHANGE
LESS LIKELY TO SUPPORT DON'T KNOW

DATA COLLECTION

- SURVEYS WERE DISTRIBUTED IN THE LIBRARY, MEMORIAL UNION, AND IN THE DINING HALLS.
- 300 RANDOM STUDENTS TOOK SURVEY.
- 168 MALE AND 132 FEMALE
 - 78 FRESHMAN
 - 81 SOPHOMORES
 - 63 JUNIORS
 - 78 SENIORS
- 25 SURVEYS WERE DISTRIBUTED TO THE JUNIOR AND SENIOR ROTC CLASSES.

QUESTION 1

- Do you believe that same sex couples in the general American population should be accorded the opportunity of marriage with all of the benefits that heterosexual couples have?
- TOTAL: YES:150(50%) NO: 123(41%) DON'T KNOW:27(9%)
- MALES: YES: 81(48%) NO: 54(39%) DON'T KNOW:21(12%)
- FEMALES: YES: 69(52%) NO: 57(43%) DON'T KNOW: 6(5%)
- FRESHMAN: YES:33(42%) NO: 42(54%) DON'T KNOW: 6(8%)
- SOPHOMORE: YES:48(59%) NO: 27(33%) DON'T KNOW: 6(7%)
- JUNIOR: YES: 27(43%) NO: 33(52%) DON'T KNOW: 6 (10%)
- SENIOR: YES: 46(59%) NO: 27(35%) DON'T KNOW: 9(12%)
- ROTC: YES: 10(40%) NO:13(52%) DON'T KNOW: 2(8%)

QUESTION 2

- Due to the nature of military service there is a concern that openly homosexual conduct amongst the ranks will adversely affect “good order and discipline” within military units. Do you agree that good order and discipline will be adversely affected?
- TOTAL: YES:132(44%) NO: 102(34%) DON'T KNOW: 66(22%)
- MALE: YES: 90(54%) NO: 54(32%) DON'T KNOW: 24(14%)
- FEMALE: YES: 42(32%) NO: 48(36%) DON'T KNOW:42(32%)
- FRESHMAN: YES: 42(54%) NO: 24 (31%) DON'T KNOW: 15(19%)
- SOPHOMORE: YES:27(33%) NO: 27(33%) DON'T KNOW:27(33%)
- JUNIOR: YES: 27(42%) NO: 24(38%) DON'T KNOW: 12(19%)
- SENIOR: YES: 36(46%) NO: 33(42%) DON'T KNOW: 15(19%)
- ROTC: YES: 20(80%) NO: 3(12%) DON'T KNOW: 2(8%)

QUESTION 3

- Many gay rights activists have called for the removal of ROTC from the nations campuses because the Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy violates many University's non-discrimination policies. Do you agree that removing ROTC from University campuses is an effective way of changing the Don't ask Don't Tell Policy?
- TOTAL: YES: 21(7%) NO: 240(80%) DON'T KNOW: 39(13%)
- MALE: YES: 27(16%) NO: 132(79%) DON'T KNOW: 27(16%)
- FEMALE: YES: 12(9%) NO: 108(82%) DON'T KNOW: 12(9%)
- FRESHMAN: YES: 12(15%) NO: 57(73%) DON'T KNOW: 9(12%)
- SOPHOMORE: YES: 3(4%) NO: (85%) DON'T KNOW: 9(11%)
- JUNIOR: YES: 3(5%) NO: 51(81%) DON'T KNOW: 9(14%)
- SENIOR: YES: 3(4%) NO: 69(88%) DON'T KNOW: 6(8%)
- ROTC: YES: 0(0%) NO: 25(100%) DON'T KNOW: 0(0%)

QUESTION 4

- Approximately 60% of all Army officers graduate from a ROTC program. Given that such a large percentage of officers graduate from ROTC on civilian college campuses, what impact do you believe a civilian education will have on future officer's attitudes towards the Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy?(MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT, LESS LIKELY, NO CHANGE, DON'T KNOW)
- TOTAL: ML: 81(27%) LL: 60(20%) NC: 78(26%) DK: 81(27%)
- MALE: ML: 51(30%) LL: 33(20%) NC: 45(27%) DK: 39(23%)
- FEMALE: ML: 30(23%) LL: 27(20%) NC: 33(25%) DK: 42(32%)
- FRESHMAN: ML: 18(23%) LL: 24(31%) NC: 21(27%) DK: 15(19%)
- SOPHOMORE: ML: 24(30%) LL: 9(11%) NC: 18(22%) DK: 30(37%)
- JUNIOR: ML: 6(10%) LL: 21(33%) NC: 24(38%) DK: 12(19%)
- SENIOR: ML: 30(38%) LL: 12(15%) NC: 15(19%) DK: 21(27%)
- ROTC: ML: 2(8%) LL: 7(28%) NC: 10(40%) DK: 6(24%)

CONCLUSIONS

- ROTC WILL STAY ON CAMPUS.
 - OVERALL 80% OF THE STUDENTS WHO TOOK THE SURVEY CLAIMED THAT REMOVING ROTC FROM COLLEGE CAMPUSES WOULD NOT BE AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO DEAL WITH THE DON'T ASK DON'T TELL POLICY.
- MANY WHO CLAIM THAT HOMOSEXUALS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MARRY AND ENJOY THE SAME BENEFITS AS HETEROSEXUAL COUPLES STILL BELIEVE THAT GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE WILL BE ADVERSLY AFFECTED IN THE MILITARY RANK STRUCTURE.
 - 50% CLAIM THAT HOMOSEXUALS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO MARRY(41%OPPOSE)
 - 44% CLAIM THAT DISCIPLINE WILL BE ADVERSLY AFFECTED.(34% DISAGREE)

- THIS MAKES IT HARD TO DETERMINE WHERE THE 9% UNDECIDED FROM QUESTION 1(HOMOSEXUAL MARRIAGE) MIGHT LEAN.
- **9% UNDECIDED FROM QUESTION 1 WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT OPENLY GAY INDIVIDUALS WILL BE ALLOWED TO SERVE IN THE MILITARY.**
 - **WOULD MAKE PUBLIC OPINION EITHER 50/50 OR 60/40**