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The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to ask that you direct the Department of Justice to end its appeal of the recent ruling invalidating the Armed Forces "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which prohibits LGBT service members from serving openly in our military.

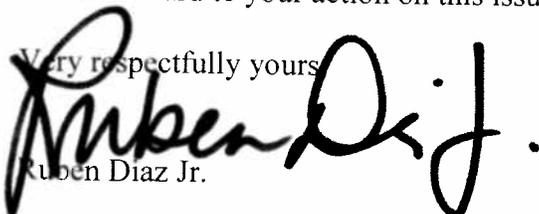
As you yourself have already said, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy unfairly discriminates against gays and lesbians, many of whom desire nothing more than to stand on the field of battle and be publicly proud of who they are. As someone who supported your historic campaign, I was heartened by your promise to repeal this unjust law. While those who have opposed the repeal of this policy frequently claim that an influx of openly-LGBT service members will hurt troop morale, we now have definitive evidence that this is not the case. New reports indicate that an internal Pentagon survey shows that most soldiers do not care if LGBT troops serve openly and that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" could be done away with.

This is an issue that hits close to home for me. Several years ago my niece, who was a model soldier and loved serving in the United States Navy, was given an honorable discharge and dismissed from the armed forces, simply because she desired to serve her country and be open about her sexuality.

My niece wants to go back to the Navy, and our entire family was thrilled to learn that the courts had struck down "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" several weeks ago. However, it is upsetting that your administration has decided to further pursue this matter in court. I know you are committed to advancing the rights of LGBT Americans. By dropping your appeal and allowing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to fade away, you would not only be working towards that goal, you would be allowing Bronxites like my niece to reenlist and proudly serve their country again.

I look forward to your action on this issue.

Very respectfully yours


Ruben Diaz Jr.