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CSCAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN
ILLINOIS

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COMMITTEES.

BANKING, HOUSING, AND
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HUCO10

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1303

93 JUN 24 P6:57

June 24, 1993

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

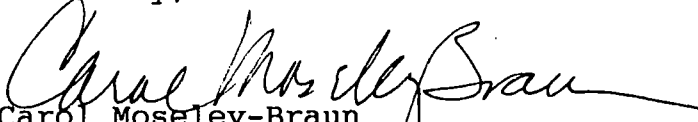
I am writing you to reiterate my strong support for your commitment to develop a policy that will allow gay and lesbian Americans to serve with pride and dignity in our armed services.

Extending to gay and lesbian Americans the right to serve their country is a matter of fundamental justice and fairness. I believe that all of us gain when we move towards a society where Americans are judged on the basis of their conduct rather than their status. I have therefore been extremely disturbed by reports that the Pentagon intends to recommend to you a policy that would prohibit gay and lesbian soldiers from revealing their sexual orientation, even while off-base and out of uniform.

I have always acknowledged the military's need to maintain good order, discipline and morale, and I know these considerations are critical to you as Commander-in-Chief. However, there is no evidence that the private, consensual sexual activity or private speech of homosexual servicemembers is incompatible with military service. Gays and lesbians can serve in the military today if they are willing to endure the painful, deceptive and unnecessary ordeal of remaining in the closet. It is therefore difficult to see how the Pentagon's proposal would promote the principles of fairness and justice to which you have always been committed.

Your willingness to recognize the humanity and dignity of gay and lesbian Americans has advanced the causes of justice, equality and tolerance. I look forward to supporting a new policy on gays in the military which will reflect those high ideals.

Cordially,


Carol Moseley-Braun
United States Senator

CMB:gtg

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