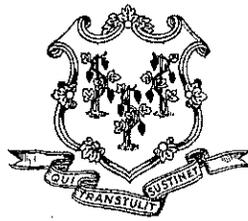


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February 19, 2013

Good Afternoon Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am here to testify in support of SB 70, AN ACT RESTORING BENEFITS TO VETERANS DISCHARGED UNDER "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL". Our society has moved on the fast track in the last decade to protect the civil rights of gay and lesbian members of society. This has been true in all aspects of our culture and it has been particularly noticeable in the military. While it is likely that very few veterans living in Connecticut were given a less than honorable discharge due to sexual orientation, we owe it to any military veteran who was so discharged to restore his or her honor which was so unfairly questioned and to provide the benefits that any other veteran would receive.

Thank you for hearing this important bill which would provide greater equity to Connecticut veterans