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LARSON CALLS SENATE "DYSFUNCTIONAL", DADT FAILS ON CLOTURE VOTE

Washington D.C. - U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, released the following statement after the Senate fell three votes short of obtaining cloture to move forward on debate of the Defense Authorization bill, which included language to abolish the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy:

"I am completely appalled by the Senate and the fact that 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' was blocked without proper debate. It is absurd that the Senate cannot even bring this critical issue, supported by the President and the Secretary of Defense, that addresses the concerns of our military to the floor for an up or down vote.

"This is vital legislation for our troops, which included the repeal of a discriminatory military policy.

"To date, the House of Representatives has acted on over 400 pieces of legislation that have not been discussed or brought up for a vote in the Senate.

"I am sure that our nation's founders would not have expected to see the minority hold

important pieces of legislation that will create jobs, boost our economy, and address the needs of our nation hostage. However, this is the secret process of the Senate and their archaic rules, where the tyranny of the minority outweighs the legislative priorities of our nation.

"The Senate showed today why it is a profile of dysfunction."

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