



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Military Partners and Families Coalition (MPFC) released an online Community Study Survey today, as a result of an award given by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine.

The study, the first of its kind, will provide a better understanding of the health care disparities and possible inaccessibility for lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) servicemember families that may have resulted from the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT)' policy. It will also highlight some of the challenges that the LGB servicemember family community continues to face today.

Prior to the repeal of DADT, thousands of families remained isolated while their LGBT servicemembers honorably served their country. MPFC is working to address the issues caused by this isolation and continues to build programs to meet the needs of the LGBT military family community.

"We are members of a community that for many years has been hidden and not heard from," said MPFC President, Ariana Bostian-Kentes, "Mental health is just one of the realms in which the needs of the LGBT military family community have yet to be addressed and we are working to change that now. We intend to work closely with MPFC's coalition members and other independent organizations to support *all* families of those serving our country."

MPFC ensures participant anonymity to encourage broad participation from LGB servicemembers and veterans as well as their partners and families and to make sure that an accurate picture of the challenges they face is captured.

According to the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, reliable consumer health information helps people understand and advocate for their health and the health of their families, whether the information addresses specific health conditions and treatments or prevention and wellness. Through this survey, it may now be possible to bring consumer health information resources to a previously underserved population; improved physical and mental health may finally become a reality through targeted services.

Official Link: <http://www.milpfc.org/survey/>

Military Partners and Families Coalition (MPFC): is a private non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. It was founded in 2011 by a group of partners of active duty U.S. Armed forces servicemembers station in the U.S. and overseas. MPFC provides support, resources, education and advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender military partners and their families. For more information, go to www.milpfc.org.

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