Reversal of Military Gay Ban Blocked

Vote to end discriminatory law fall short

(AP) -- Republicans blocked a last-ditch effort in the Senate to lift the military's ban on openly gay troops last week, dealing a major blow to gay rights groups and making it unlikely Congress could repeal "don't ask, don't tell" any time Don't Tell' is a discriminatory policy soon.

was deeply disappointed in the Merkley said. Senate's failure to repeal the discriminatory law.

garded the opinions of the nation's top military leaders, including Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Mike Mullen, and voted to block the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'

"I've said it before and I'll say it again, the brave men and women who serve in the American Armed Forces should never have to lie about their sexual orientation in order to serve their country. 'Don't Ask, that weakens our military readiness U.S. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., said he by eliminating qualified personnel,"

The 57-40 vote fell three short of the 60 needed to overcome proce-"For the second time this year, dural hurdles to lift the 17-year-old Senate Republicans have disre- ban. Sen. Susan Collins of Maine



Jeff Merkley

was the lone Republican voting to repeal is supported by the military advance the bill, and Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia was the only Democrat to vote against it.

The rejection was a defeat for duck session," he said. President Barack Obama, who campaigned promising to overturn the law and later called it one of his top legislative priorities for the year. But in recent weeks the White House has done little to push the legislation, focusing its influence instead on tax cuts and a nuclear arms treaty with Russia.

Obama wasn't giving up. He said the ban "weakens our national security, diminishes our military readiness and violates fundamental American principles of fairness, integrity and equality." And he said and the American people.

"I urge the Senate to revisit these important issues during the lame

Gay rights advocates were furious because the Senate vote failed largely because of a procedural disagreement.

"Instead of doing what is right, the world's greatest deliberative body devolved into shameful school yard spats that put petty partisan politics above the needs of our women and men in uniform," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights group.

The 1993 law bans gay troops from publicly acknowledging their sexual orientation. A repeal provision was included in a broader defense policy bill and passed last spring in the House.

Worst Charities Do Little to Help Needy

Donors should avoid irresponsible non-profits

is upon us, Attorney General John The proposal will eliminate the Or-Kroger is releasing a list of Oregon's egon tax deduction for donations to 20 Worst Charities, offering tips to charities that spend less than 30 consumers on donating wisely and unveiling a landmark legislative proposal to combat unscrupulous nonprofits.

butions to legitimate organizations," end the rampant abuse of non-profit Kroger said. "Many charities do laws." great work, but some are little more than scams that do little to help the people they claim to support."

In addition to increasing consumer awareness, Attorney General Kroger will ask the 2011 Legislature to pass a law making Oregon the first state in the country to use the tax code to fight charities that

Now that the gift-giving season ontelemarketers and administration. costs and professional fundraising. percent of the money they raise on the people they claim to support.

"This proposal will help kick sham charities out of Oregon," said "It is important that generous Kroger. "If the rest of the country Oregonians make charitable contri- follows Oregon's lead, we could charitable program activities.

periodic financial reports with the Oregon Department of Justice disclosing how much money the organization raised and how the funds were spent. The Department's Charitable Activities Section has identified 20 organizations that spent more than 75 percent of the donations spend most of the money they raise they collected on administrative fundraising.

While guidelines issued by the Better Business Bureau (BBB) suggest that charitable organizations should spend at least 65 percent of their funds on charitable programs, every charity on the Department of Justice's list devoted less than 25 percent of their expenditures on

At the top of the list is Shiloh International Ministries, which State law requires charities to file claims to solicit money to provide medical necessities and moral support to needy children and to provide assistance to the homeless. According to the most recent financial filings, the California-based nonprofit spent an average of \$937,315 per year, 96.37 percent of which went to management and

supposedly raises money to educate teenagers on the effects of alannual average \$1,893,929 it raised formance. on charitable purposes.

The Illinois-based group spent 96.97 made a recent pledge when you percent of the annual average didn't. These methods are inten-\$2,265,809 it raised on telemarketing and administration.

Kroger cannot dictate how charities spend your money, but he is providing Oregonians some basic advice to ensure your gifts go to a worthy cause.

to make sure the organization is not the individual collecting the registered with the Attorney donation.

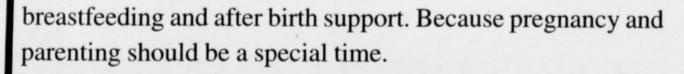
No. 2 on the list is Law Enforce- General's Office by searching the ment Education Program, which Department's online database or by calling 971-673-1880. You can also visit www.guidestar.org, a cohol. The Michigan-based non- national clearinghouse of inforprofit spent just 6.26 percent of the mation on charities and their per-

Attorney General Kroger also The Korean War Veterans Na- cautions Oregonians to watch out tional Museum and Library was one for solicitations that thank you for of many groups on the list that says your previous support and chariit raises money to help veterans. ties that send invoices claiming you tionally confusing and dishonest ways to gain donations.

Consumers are advised against giving out their personal information over the phone. Legitimate charities will accept contributions by check, which should always be Before donating, it is important made payable to the organization

The ICTC is an infant

mortality prevention, breastfeeding promotion and a midwife and doula training non-profit. We empower mothers and fathers during their pregnancy with childbirth education classes, Full Circle Doula/Birth Companion services,



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