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Health Care Arena

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Feb. 02, 2010

Driving the Conversation:

Arena Ref: [Fred Barbash](#)

Gays in the military: Should "don't ask, don't tell" be scrapped?

For opposing points of view today see [Sen. Carl Levin in POLITICO](#) and [William Kristol in the Weekly Standard](#).

Noon livechat with [Marc Goldwein](#), Policy Director of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget

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David Boaz

Executive VP, Cato Institute :

Where are the conservatives? We know that a lot of Washingtonians oppose the repeal of DADT. A lot of Republicans are going to vote against it, and some Democrats too. So why aren't they stepping up here in Arena to defend the policy? **Could it be that anti-gay sentiment is beginning to embarrass conservatives?** They've been quieter than I would have predicted over the past 14 months of progress toward marriage equality. Conservatives today are embarrassed that yesterday's conservatives opposed the civil rights movement and equal rights for women. (Look how they defended Sarah Palin's right and ability to manage five children AND the vice presidency, barely a generation after conservative doyenne Phyllis Schlafly barnstormed the

country saying mothers should stay home with their children.) Perhaps they're beginning to sense that in another 10 years they're going to be embarrassed by their hostility to equal rights for gay people. And maybe that's why, just like last March, you've got a fair number of liberals, lefties, and libertarians arguing against the military ban and virtually no conservatives coming out of the closet to defend it. That's progress!

Subject	Date
Terror trials: Is it time for the administration to retreat and rethink? Is it generally mishandling the terrorism issue?	Feb. 01, 2010
Open Mic	Jan. 30, 2010
Besides opposing Obama, what should Congressional Republicans be doing to improve their own not-so-hot standing with the public? Duking it out in Baltimore	Jan. 29, 2010
State of the Union: How did he do?SCOTUS v POTUS	Jan. 27, 2010
What's at stake?	Jan. 27, 2010
Beau's choice: Are Dems panicking? What is it about the word "populist?" (these days) The "fiscal commission:" good or bad idea? Bernanke: Thumbs up or down?	Jan. 25, 2010
Open Mic	Jan. 23, 2010