
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT AND UNITED STATES CONGRESS ADOPT THE MILITARY READINESS ENHANCEMENT ACT WHICH INSTITUTES A POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION BASED UPON SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND REPEAL THE "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL" POLICY.

1 WHEREAS, the codification into law by the National Defense
2 Authorization Act of 1994 of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't
3 Pursue, Don't Harass" policy has led to the discharge of a great
4 number of lesbian and gay service members, thereby ending their
5 military careers and burdening them with a lifelong stigma; and
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7 WHEREAS, the United States Armed Forces' capacity to carry
8 out its missions, including those of the Global War on
9 Terrorism, is hindered when competent and qualified individuals
10 are involuntarily discharged; and
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12 WHEREAS, the Armed Forces have been forced to retain
13 Reserve and National Guard service members on active duty beyond
14 standard deployment lengths to carry out their missions during
15 the Global War on Terrorism; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Armed Forces' ability to recruit and retain
18 the best and brightest of Americans is reduced by a policy of
19 exclusion based solely on sexual orientation; and
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21 WHEREAS, lesbian and gay service members have served with
22 honor throughout United States history, and continue to serve
23 with distinction in the Global War on Terrorism, including
24 engagement in the Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and
25 Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq; and
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27 WHEREAS, these men and women have received military honors,
28 decorations, and promotions to the highest ranks of their
29 respective services for valor and service to the people of the
30 United States; and
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32 WHEREAS, United States allies in the War on Terrorism,
33 including the United Kingdom, Australia, and Israel, all allow
34 lesbian and gay service members to serve openly; and



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2 WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal
3 Bureau of Investigation, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the
4 National Security Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, and
5 other federal departments handling national security allow their
6 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender personnel to serve
7 openly; and

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9 WHEREAS, a February 2005 Government Accountability Office
10 report states that more than 9,488 service members have been
11 discharged under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, including
12 at least 757 service members in "critical occupations" such as
13 counterintelligence experts, at a cost to taxpayers of nearly
14 \$200,000,000; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Defense reported that 209
17 language specialists have been discharged from the military
18 under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, including fifty-four
19 Arabic and nine Farsi translators, which are of vital importance
20 to intelligence gathering and have been in critical shortage;
21 and

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23 WHEREAS, a study conducted by the Center for the Study Of
24 Sexual Minorities in the Military suggests that the "Don't Ask,
25 Don't Tell" policy increases gay troops' stress levels; lowers
26 morale; reduces access to medical care, psychological services
27 and religious consultations; and limits their ability to form
28 trusting bonds with peers, advance professionally, and join and
29 remain in the services; and

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31 WHEREAS, every Department of Defense authorized study has
32 shown that there is no correlation between sexual orientation
33 and unit cohesion in the Armed Forces; and

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35 WHEREAS, the majority of American citizens support keeping
36 trained and skilled openly gay and lesbian service members in
37 the military; and

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39 WHEREAS, the United States military's readiness to protect
40 and defend our nation is severely compromised by the
41 discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, particularly when
42 enforced by commanders whose personal beliefs may influence
43 their disciplinary action; and

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1 WHEREAS, discharges under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" are
2 historically fewer when troop strength is low, as in times of
3 war, which illustrates both a tacit military recognition that
4 lesbian and gay service members are fit and capable of service,
5 and the capricious nature of the policy; and
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7 WHEREAS, according to a 2005 local news estimate, Hawaii
8 had 83 of the country's 425 major military installations which
9 are home to thousands of military personnel and their families;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, according to a 2004 Urban Institute study, an
13 estimated 6,300 lesbian and gay veterans live in Hawaii; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Legislature and courts of the State of Hawaii
16 have extended protections based on sexual orientation to prevent
17 invidious discrimination which affirm lesbian and gay citizens
18 are entitled to equality under the law; and
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20 WHEREAS, House Resolution 1059 of 2005, known as the
21 Military Readiness Enhancement Act, which would repeal the
22 standing discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that has
23 lead to the discharge of lesbian and gay service members on the
24 basis of sexual orientation, has been introduced in the United
25 States Congress; and
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27 WHEREAS, military readiness is enhanced when every
28 qualified, capable American, regardless of sexual orientation,
29 is welcomed into our Armed Forces and has their talents utilized
30 to the advantage of American national security; now, therefore
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32 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
33 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
34 that the Legislature of the state of Hawaii requests that the
35 Hawaii Congressional delegation support House Resolution 1059 of
36 2005, the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, which would
37 institute a military policy of nondiscrimination based upon
38 sexual orientation; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this



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1 Resolution be transmitted to each member of Hawaii's
2 Congressional delegation.

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OFFERED BY: 

