

Nation. I therefore join with the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) in support of this resolution and urge its adoption. This matter needs to be put to rest. It is imperative that the executive branch take this matter to the U.S. Supreme Court to urge the court to give deference to the Congress and uphold this statute. This resolution makes it clear that the Congress intends to continue to support our military by ensuring equal access for military recruiters on college campuses, and it should be the sense of this Congress that we want judicial review of this matter by our highest court.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, further proceedings on this concurrent resolution will be postponed.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting a leave of absence (effective immediately) from the House Committee on Government Reform due to my pending appointment to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

JOHN F. TIERNEY,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Agriculture:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: I would like to resign my seat from the Committee on Agriculture, effective immediately.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 62) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 62

Resolved, That the following named Members and Delegates be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.—Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Boswell, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Davis of Tennessee, Mr. Chandler.

(2) COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET.—Mr. Kind.

(3) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM.—Ms. Norton.

(4) COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES.—Mr. George Miller of California, Mr. Markey, Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Inslee, Mr. Udall of Colorado, Mr. Cardoza, Ms. Herseth.

(5) COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE.—Ms. Hooley of Oregon (to rank immediately after Ms. Woolsey), Ms. Jackson-Lee of Texas, Ms. Zoe Lofgren of California, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Baird, Mr. Matheson, Mr. Costa, Mr. Al Green of Texas, Mr. Melancon.

(6) COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS.—Mr. Faleomavaega, Mrs. Christensen, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Case, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Michaud, Ms. Linda T. Sánchez of California, Mr. Barrow, Ms. Bean.

(7) COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS.—Mr. Strickland, Ms. Hooley of Oregon, Mr. Reyes, Ms. Berkley, Mr. Udall of New Mexico.

Mr. MENENDEZ (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING CONTINUED SUPPORT OF CONGRESS FOR EQUAL ACCESS OF MILITARY RECRUITERS TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, proceedings will now resume on House Concurrent Resolution 36, expressing the continued support of Congress for equal access of military recruiters to institutions of higher education.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed earlier today, 52½ minutes remained in debate. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) has 27 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) has 25½ minutes remaining.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE).

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS), the sponsor of this concurrent resolution and a member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 36. This resolution expresses the continued support of Congress for the so-called Solomon Law, a critical piece of legislation originally passed in 1994 which has helped ensure that mili-

tary recruiters have equal access on our Nation's campuses.

We are debating this resolution today only because of a recent court decision that wrongfully struck down the Solomon Law. In November of last year, a closely divided U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Solomon Law violates first amendment rights to free speech and association.

The court sided with the plaintiff arguing that "the Solomon Amendment requires law schools to express a message that is incompatible with their educational objectives, and no compelling governmental interest has been shown to deny this freedom."

Mr. Speaker, I cannot disagree more with this assessment. In our post-9/11 world, our Nation's military deserves, at least the same access to institutions of higher education that any other major employer might enjoy. This is certainly a modest and I believe a reasonable request, especially if the college or university accepts Federal funds.

This is not about infringing free speech; it is about ensuring our military has access to our Nation's best and brightest at a time when we face enormous challenges abroad. This resolution expresses the continued support of Congress for the Solomon Law and would help ensure that military recruiters continue to have access to college campuses and students that is at least equal in quality and scope as that provided to any other employer.

This resolution would reaffirm the commitment of Congress to explore all options, including the use of its constitutional power to appropriate funds to achieve that equal access. In adopting this resolution, we would also be urging the executive branch to aggressively challenge any decision impeding or prohibiting the operation of the Solomon Law. Also, we would be encouraging the executive branch to follow a doctrine of nonacquiescence by not finding a judicial decision affecting one jurisdiction to be binding on any other jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, as we debate this resolution, it is important for us to remember that the Solomon Law and its legislative updates were not designed as one-size-fits-all mandates from Washington. In fact, the law is very flexible, and it fits the needs of nearly every public-funded institution in the country. For example, the Solomon Law does not apply to colleges or universities that have a long-standing policy of pacifism based on historical religious grounds, nor does it affect any Federal student aid or financial assistance.

Of course, as those of us who are here debating this issue are aware, this is not the first challenge to this law. Prior to the November circuit court decision, on repeated occasions lower courts have consistently upheld the constitutionality of the Solomon Law, arguing that it does not infringe on any institution's right to free speech or association.