

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. Pomerooy, 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 military 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.

While this recent court decision is unfortunate, it is not the end to the Solomon Law. A bipartisan vote here today in support of this legislation will help send a clear message to our courts that our military recruiters deserve equal access on all of our campuses. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) for his ongoing efforts on this issue, and I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE) for managing this legislation.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, first I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for yielding me this time to speak, time to speak in opposition to H. Con. Res. 36.

Mr. Speaker, last November a Federal court said the Federal Government cannot take away a university's funding simply because the school refuses to exempt the U.S. military from its policy, meaning the university's policy, and that on-campus recruiters not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

Today we are debating a resolution in support of the Solomon amendment. If this House of Representatives votes to support that resolution, we will be putting the Congress on record as supporting absolute senseless discrimination.

The resolution says it is about equal access for military recruiters at institutions of higher education. But, in reality, it is about allowing the military to avoid the consequences of discrimination, the same consequences that any other employer would have to face if it discriminated.

Many say, and you heard it today, that our national security requires the military to engage in this discrimination, but the facts just do not support it. The court said that the Government failed to produce, and I quote, "a shred of evidence" that the Solomon amendment helps military recruiting, and even suggested that the hostility that the amendment causes may hurt recruiting.

It was reported in last month that since 1998, the military has discharged 20 fluent Arabic speakers and six fluent Farsi speakers under its "Don't ask,