

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 55

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES LOW (Sponsor), NEWMAN, OXFORD, PACE, BURNETT, TALBOY, JONES (63), McNEIL, KIRKTON, HUMMEL, HOLSMAN, WEBBER, CHAPPELLE-NADAL, SCHUPP AND CURLS (Co-sponsors).

4906L.011

Whereas, lesbian, gay, and bisexual Americans have served honorably in the
2 Armed Forces throughout United States history and continue to serve with distinction on active
3 duty, including in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; and
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Whereas, the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy currently does not allow openly
5 lesbian, gay, or bisexual Americans to serve in the military only because of their sexual
6 orientation; and
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Whereas, more than 12,000 service members have been discharged under the
9 "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy since the policy was enacted in 1993, including approximately 800
10 service members who performed heavily specialized jobs, such as Arabic translators, medical
11 specialists, pilots, and intelligence personnel; and
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Whereas, American taxpayers have spent more then \$250 million to carry out the
14 "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy by removing and replacing qualified and honorable service
15 members because of their sexual orientation; and
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Whereas, the United States military's readiness to protect and defend our nation
18 is severely compromised by spending taxpayer money to discharge honorable service members
19 who are satisfactorily carrying out all required tasks, many of which are highly specialized,
20 making it difficult to find qualified replacement personnel; and
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Whereas, America's allies in the war on terror, including the United Kingdom,
23 Australia, Canada, and Israel, allow lesbian and gay service members to serve openly; and
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25 **Whereas**, every Department of Defense authorized study has shown that there is
26 no correlation between sexual orientation and unit cohesion in the Armed Forces; and

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28 **Whereas**, there are more than 20,000 military and civilian personnel stationed in
29 Missouri, and an estimated 9,000 lesbian, gay, or bisexual veterans currently reside in Missouri:

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31 **Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that the members of the Missouri House
32 of Representatives, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate
33 concurring therein, hereby support the Military Readiness Enhancement Act that would replace
34 the current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy with a policy of nondiscrimination based on sexual
35 orientation, and respectfully urge the Congress to pass and the President to sign the Military
36 Readiness Enhancement Act so that lesbian, gay, and bisexual Americans are able to serve their
37 country as any other American would be allowed to serve; and

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39 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
40 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for each
41 member of Missouri's Congressional delegation.