SLS 23RS-179

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY SENATOR CATHEY

CONGRESS. Memorializes Congress to pass the AMERICANS Act of 2023 to reinstate any service member removed from any branch of the military for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To memorialize the Congress of the United States to pass the AMERICANS Act of 2023 to
3	reinstate any service member removed from any branch of the military for refusing
4	the COVID-19 vaccine.
5	WHEREAS, in August of 2021, United States Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin
6	required COVID-19 vaccinations for all service members; and
7	WHEREAS, at the direction of Congress in January of 2022, Secretary Austin
8	rescinded the COVID-19 vaccination mandate; and
9	WHEREAS, during the effective period of the mandate, approximately eight
10	thousand two hundred service members of the armed forces were discharged for refusing to
11	get the vaccine for religious or other reasons; and
12	WHEREAS, while the passing of the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act
13	ended the mandate, it did not go far enough to prevent a similar mandate in the future or
14	provide meaningful remedies for service members that were kicked out of the military; and
15	WHEREAS, if the AMERICANS Act of 2023 is enacted, service members that were
16	involuntarily separated from their service would be credited with missed retirement pay,
17	have their rank restored, and receive any compensation for any pay or benefits lost due to
18	the demotion or discharge; and

1	WHEREAS, the AMERICANS Act of 2023 would also change any "general"
2	discharge given to the unvaccinated to "honorable" and expunge the records of service
3	members who faced adverse action for their refusal to be vaccinated; and
4	WHEREAS, the enactment of the AMERICANS Act of 2023 would result in a fair
5	and just outcome for those loyal service members who were discharged for remaining true
6	to their personal convictions.
7	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
8	does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to pass the AMERICANS Act
9	of 2023 to reinstate any service member removed from any branch of the military for
10	refusing the COVID-19 vaccine.
11	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted
12	to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of
13	Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States
14	Congress.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

SR 117 Original

DIGEST 2023 Regular Session

Cathey

Memorializes Congress to pass the AMERICANS Act of 2023 to reinstate any service member removed from any branch of the military for refusing the COVID-19 vaccine.