

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8 rescinded the COVID-19 vaccination mandate; and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

