HLS 13RS-3931 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 175

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

MILITARY AFFAIRS: Requests congress to codify into law a standard for religious freedom

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to codify
3	into law a United States Department of Defense standard for religious freedom that
4	would be applied to all uniformed services.
5	WHEREAS, the freedom to practice religion and to express religious thought is
6	acknowledged as our first freedom, enshrined in the Bill of Rights of the United States
7	Constitution and is a freedom which belongs to all Americans; and
8	WHEREAS, our military has fought to preserve all rights and freedoms enumerated
9	in the United States Constitution; and
10	WHEREAS, recent news reports and statements of high ranking military personnel
11	reveal a growing intolerance and in some cases outright hostility toward religious expression
12	and affiliation within segments of our nation's military; and
13	WHEREAS, in Section 533 of the United States National Defense Authorization Act
14	(NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2013, the United States Department of Defense is charged with
15	developing regulations that would implement the conscience protections recently passed by
16	the United States Congress; and
17	WHEREAS, the same protections have not been established throughout the
18	Department of Defense for all service personnel; and
19	WHEREAS, individual branches of the military have adopted policies that are not
20	in keeping with the spirit of Section 533 of the NDAA; and

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1 WHEREAS, protection of religious freedom is fundamental to all freedoms as 2 Americans. 3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 4 memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to codify into 5 law a United States Department of Defense standard for religious freedom that would be 6 applied to all uniformed services, insuring that all members of the armed forces may engage 7 in peaceable and noncombative religious speech, including noncoercive proselytizing, and 8 that such speech is not in derogation of the good order and discipline of the armed forces. 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the 10 presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the

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United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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Hodges HCR No. 175

Memorializes the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to codify into law a United States Department of Defense standard for religious freedom that would be applied to all uniformed services.p