

Mr. Speaker, my support for this resolution is reluctant because, while I believe that allowing military recruiters equal access to institutions of higher education is beneficial to both the military and the students, I am also strongly opposed to policies that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, such as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." This policy has deprived the military of over 10,000 highly trained soldiers during a time of war and continues to cost the government millions of dollars in wasted training and enforcement costs. If we want to bridge the divide between the military and universities, we should, instead of passing resolutions like H. Con. Res. 354, pass H.R. 1059, the "Military Readiness Enhancement Act," which, by repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," would end the dispute over equal access for military recruiters. At the end of the day, our security is best served by giving all qualified Americans the freedom to serve our country.