

RESTORE HONOR TO SERVICE MEMBERS ACT



Bill Number

Introduced in the House as H.R.2094 by Rep. Mark Pocan (WI-2) and in the Senate as S.1366 by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI).

Purpose of Bill

This bill will direct the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge characterization of former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged because of their sexual orientation, at the request of the service member. It will allow such discharge characterizations, as long as the original discharge was based on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), or a similar policy in place prior to the enactment of DADT, to be changed to honorable, if determined to be appropriate. The bill will also ensure that oral historians of each military department review the facts and circumstances surrounding the DADT discharges and receive oral testimony of individuals who personally experienced discrimination.

Action Request

Ask your representatives to support and cosponsor this bill if they have not yet done so, especially if they are part of the House Committee on Armed Services.

Talking Points

- **LGBTQ veterans discharged under DADT deserve better.** This bill would correct service member records to reflect honorable service for members who were discharged dishonorably under DADT.
- **LGBTQ veterans deserve to be acknowledged and have their voices heard.** It is estimated that 100,000 members of the Armed Forces were discharged from the Armed Forces between World War II and September 2011 because of the sexual orientation of the member. These individuals represent an important part of American history, and their stories must be heard if we are to begin to understand the impact of discrimination in the Armed Forces.