

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. \_\_\_\_\_

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for the continued availability of religious services to members of the Armed Forces and their families during a lapse in appropriations.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need for the continued availability of religious services to members of the Armed Forces and their families during a lapse in appropriations.

Whereas the Department of Defense has determined that some military chaplains and other personnel, including contract personnel, hired to perform duties of a military chaplain are not able to perform religious services on military installations during a lapse in appropriations;

Whereas this determination threatens the ability of members of the Armed Services and their families to exercise their First Amendment rights to worship and participate in religious activities; and

Whereas the Department of the Interior has permitted the performance of First Amendment activities in areas controlled by the National Park Service despite the lapse in appropriations: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3           (1) recognizes that the performance of religious  
4       services and the provision of ministry are protected  
5       activities under the First Amendment of the United  
6       States Constitution;

7           (2) urges and intends that the Secretary of De-  
8       fense permit the performance of religious services on  
9       property owned or maintained by the Department of  
10      Defense, during any lapse in appropriations, in the  
11      same manner and to the same extent as such reli-  
12      gious services are otherwise available; and

13          (3) urges and intends that the Secretary of De-  
14      fense permit military chaplains and other personnel,  
15      including contract personnel, hired to perform duties  
16      of a military chaplain to perform religious services  
17      and ministry, during any lapse in appropriations, in  
18      the same manner and to the same extent as such  
19      chaplains and other personnel are otherwise per-  
20      mitted to perform religious services and ministry.