#### 112TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1928

To amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 13, 2011

Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

## A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the ground combat exclusion policy for female members of the Armed Forces.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Women's Fair and
- 5 Equal Right to Military Service Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.
- 7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
- 8 (1) 260,457 female members of the Armed
- 9 Forces have served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Op-

- eration Enduring Freedom, or Operation New
  Dawn.
  - (2) 25,099 female members of the Armed Forces are currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.
  - (3) Women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are not excluded from providing support to combat units or other frontline units.
  - (4) As of April 1, 2011, 137 female members of the Armed Forces have been killed in Iraq or Afghanistan, and, of the women killed, over 60 were killed in combat.
  - (5) More than 1,300 female members of the Armed Forces have been wounded in action, of which 758 were wounded in hostile action.
    - (6) The current nature of war has changed in Iraq and Afghanistan and, despite the prohibition on female members of the Armed Forces serving in combat, so has the role of female members of the Armed Forces.
  - (7) Women are increasingly attached to combat units and engaging in frontline roles despite the current ground combat exclusion policy.
  - (8) Female members of the Armed Forces are engaging in direct combat without receiving adequate combat training due to the current ground

- combat exclusion policy described in current section
  652 of title 10, United States Code.
- (9) The Secretaries of the military departments should be given the authorization to assign an eligible member of an armed force under the jurisdiction of that Secretary to a unit of that armed force based on the needs of the unit, regardless of the member's gender.
  - (10) Secretary of Defense Robert Gates has stated that women have been serving in combat already and female members of the Armed Services have expressed that because they're not in a combat military occupational specialty, they haven't had combat training, but they're on a combat patrol.

### (b) Purposes.—The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to ensure that modern military combat policies reflect the current operational environment of the combat operations; and
- (2) to raise the profile of the recognition that female members of the Armed Forces should receive for their service, particularly when it involves their contribution with regard to direct combat operations.

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1	SEC. 3. REPEAL OF GROUND COMBAT EXCLUSION POLICY
2	FOR FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED
3	FORCES.
4	(a) Repeal.—
5	(1) Repeal.—Section 652 of title 10, United
6	States Code, is repealed.
7	(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
8	tions at the beginning of chapter 37 of such title is
9	amended by striking the item relating to section
10	652.
11	(b) Revision of Current Military Personnel
12	Policies.—
13	(1) Revision.—The Secretary of Defense shall
14	revise the military personnel policies of the Depart-
15	ment of Defense and the military departments so
16	that such policies do not restrict members of the
17	Armed Forces from assignment to units and posi-
18	tions based on gender.
19	(2) Notice and wait.—Any change in a mili-
20	tary personnel policy that would exclude based on
21	gender shall not take effect until—
22	(A) the Secretary of Defense submits to
23	the Committees on Armed Services of the Sen-
24	ate and House of Representatives a notice of
25	the intent to make the change; and

1	(B) a period of 30 legislative days has ex-
2	pired following the date on which the notice is
3	received by the committees.
4	(3) Legislative day defined.—In this sub-
5	section, term "legislative day" means a day on which
6	either House of Congress is in session.

 $\bigcirc$