

HOUSE RESOLUTION 139

By DeBerry

A RESOLUTION to urge Congress to revise law and policy regarding the carrying of firearms by military servicemembers on military installations.

WHEREAS, military facilities across this nation have been the targets of armed attacks by individuals in recent years, including Ft. Hood in 2009, the Little Rock military recruiting center in 2009, the Washington Navy Yard in 2013, and the Naval Reserve Center in Chattanooga on July 16, 2015; and

WHEREAS, these acts of violence have resulted in the tragic loss of lives of honorable men and women who performed above and beyond the call of duty to ensure our individual and collective freedom; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense restricts the carrying of firearms and use of deadly force by military and civilian personnel on military installations; and

WHEREAS, it is current policy that arming Department of Defense personnel with firearms shall be limited and controlled; defense personnel not regularly engaged in security or law enforcement activities can only be armed in response to specific missions or threats and the immediate need to protect lives or departmental assets; and

WHEREAS, certain terrorist groups, such as Islamic State, also known as ISIS, are attempting to recruit and radicalize supporters to commit terrorist attacks in the United States and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, as the threat of domestic terrorism increases, a less restrictive firearms carry policy by the Department of Defense would allow military servicemembers to better defend themselves and others from attacks against military installations or facilities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby urge Congress to revise law and policy regarding the carrying of firearms by military servicemembers on military installations or facilities so that military personnel can both help prevent and more readily defend themselves from attacks against such facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation with this final clause omitted from such copy.