AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 1735
OFFERED BY MR. PETERS OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title V (page 247, after line 20) insert the following:

SEC. 596. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL MILITARY PERSONNEL.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On February 28, 1994, Department of Defense Directive 1304.26 took effect, which prohibited openly gay, lesbian, or bisexual individuals from serving in the United States military.

(2) The directive was mandated by Public Law 103-160 (10 U.S.C. 654), which prohibited individuals who “demonstrated a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts” from serving in the United States Armed Forces because their service “would create an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability”.

May 7, 2015 (10:34 a.m.)
(3) During the period of enforcement of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, more than 13,000 service personnel were discharged from the United States Armed Forces as a result of their sexual orientation.

(4) Pursuant to the Don’t Ask Don’t Tell Repeal Act of 2010, President Barack Obama, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen sent a certification to Congress on July 22, 2011, which established September 20, 2011, as the end date for Don’t Ask Don’t Tell.

(5) Various legislative efforts were undertaken to delay implementation of the repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, such as the Military Readiness Act of 2011, which required the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force to each submit a written certification that repeal of section 654 of title 10, United States Code, “would not degrade the readiness, effectiveness, cohesion, and morale of combat arms units and personnel of the Armed Force under the officer’s jurisdiction engaged in combat, deployed to a combat theater, or preparing for deployment to a combat theater”. 
(6) On December 18, 2010, Sen. John McCain stated that repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell could “harm the battle effectiveness which is so vital to the survival of our young men and women in the military”.

(7) Since the implementation of the repeal of Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, there have been no decreases in recruitment rates and no resignations.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the Sense of Congress that the repeal of section 654 of title 10, United States, Code has not degraded the readiness, effectiveness, cohesion, and morale of combat arms units and personnel of the Armed Forces, including those personnel engaged in combat, deployed to a combat theater, or preparing for deployment to a combat theater.