



## Military Readiness Enhancement Act

### **Military Readiness Enhancement Act (MREA)**

*Introduced as “Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2009” (bill number not available at point of printing) by Representative Tauscher (D-CA) with 112 co-sponsors on March 3, 2009.*

The APA strongly urges Congress to promote the enactment of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2009 is designed to counteract the current U.S. policy of discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual persons in military service.

Specifically, this legislation intends to:

- Repeal the current “Policy Concerning Homosexuality in the Armed Forces” (10 U.S.C. § 654), which mandates administrative discharges:
  - If “the service member has engaged in, attempted to engage in, or solicited another to engage in a homosexual act or acts”;
  - If “the member has stated that he or she is a homosexual or bisexual, or words to that effect”;
  - If “the member has married or attempted to marry a person known to be of the same biological sex”.
- Institute a U.S. military policy of nondiscrimination based on sexual orientation in accession, recognition, promotion, and any other administrative actions based on sexual orientation, consistent with non-discrimination policies regarding race, gender and disability status.
- Allow qualified gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals who have been involuntarily discharged based on sexual orientation to resume military service.

An extensive body of scientific research suggests that the current U.S. policy on sexual orientation and military service is detrimental to the operations of the U.S. military, both financially and socially. For further information on this important topic, please visit <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbcc/publications/briefingsheet.pdf>.

APA encourages Congress to expedite passage of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2009. We would be pleased to offer our association’s assistance in furthering passage of this vital legislation in a timely fashion.

