

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 450

To amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that every military chaplain has the prerogative to close a prayer outside of a religious service according to the dictates of the chaplain's own conscience.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 11, 2017

Mr. JONES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that every military chaplain has the prerogative to close a prayer outside of a religious service according to the dictates of the chaplain's own conscience.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. PROTECTION OF THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OF**
2 **MILITARY CHAPLAINS TO CLOSE A PRAYER**
3 **OUTSIDE OF A RELIGIOUS SERVICE ACCORD-**
4 **ING TO THE DICTATES OF THE CHAPLAIN'S**
5 **CONSCIENCE.**

6 (a) CHAPLAIN-LED PROGRAMS.—Section 1789 of
7 title 10, United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
9 section (d); and

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
11 lowing new subsection (c):

12 “(c) If called upon to lead a prayer during a chaplain-
13 led program referred to in subsection (a), a chaplain shall
14 have the prerogative to close the prayer according to the
15 dictates of the chaplain’s own conscience.”.

16 (b) UNITED STATES ARMY.—Section 3547 of title
17 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
18 the following new subsection:

19 “(c) If called upon to lead a prayer outside of a reli-
20 gious service, a chaplain shall have the prerogative to close
21 the prayer according to the dictates of the chaplain’s own
22 conscience.”.

23 (c) UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.—Section
24 4337 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

25 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “There”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
2 section:

3 “(b) If called upon to lead a prayer outside of a reli-
4 gious service, the Chaplain shall have the prerogative to
5 close the prayer according to the dictates of the Chaplain’s
6 conscience.”.

7 (d) UNITED STATES NAVY AND MARINE CORPS.—
8 Section 6031 of title 10, United States Code, is amended
9 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

10 “(d) If called upon to lead a prayer outside of a reli-
11 gious service, a chaplain shall have the prerogative to close
12 the prayer according to the dictates of the chaplain’s own
13 conscience.”.

14 (e) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.—Section 8547 of
15 title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
16 end the following new subsection:

17 “(c) If called upon to lead a prayer outside of a reli-
18 gious service, a chaplain shall have the prerogative to close
19 the prayer according to the dictates of the chaplain’s own
20 conscience.”.

21 (f) UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.—Section
22 9337 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

23 (1) by inserting “(a)” before “There”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
25 section:

1 “(b) If called upon to lead a prayer outside of a reli-
2 gious service, the Chaplain shall have the prerogative to
3 close the prayer according to the dictates of the Chaplain’s
4 conscience.”.

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