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## Chaplains Say Thank You to Senate for Vote

WASHINGTON - Chaplain endorsers, representing more than 2,000 military chaplains, congratulates the Senate for their vote yesterday to ensure military chaplains are not forced to perform so-called same-sex marriage ceremonies.

Dr. Ron Crews, Executive Director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty said, "We commend Senator Roger Wicker, R-Miss, for his efforts to clarify in law that chaplains will be able to continue to serve our military personnel without fear of reprisal for their Biblically held views concerning sexuality and the definition of marriage."

The Chaplain Alliance issued a statement in October raising concern over the DoD memorandum authorizing chaplains and military chapel facilities to be used for "any private ceremony."

Members of the Chaplain Alliance continue to call on Congress to conduct hearings on the threats to the religious liberties of military chaplains and service members that the repeal of DADT has highlighted and showcased. Chaplains report there is a growing climate of fear due to uncertainty and lack of clarity as to what is permissible and what is not when it comes to speaking about or addressing homosexual behaviors. Crews said, "We are aware of instances where chaplains have suffered retaliation, including having their careers threatened, for being "politically incorrect." Enlisted personnel have also experienced the chilling effect on their free speech rights. There is a definite need for Congress to include a 'Right of Conscience' clause in Title 10 of the U S code to ensure that no American, especially those who wear the uniform, should be denied their religious liberties."

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