

October 8, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to express our strong opposition to the “hate crimes” provisions that have been attached to H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act Conference Report for Fiscal Year 2010.

Each of us takes very seriously the responsibility to ensure the men and women who volunteer to serve in our Armed Forces have the resources they need to defend this nation. Using our troops to pass divisive social policy does a profound disservice to them, this institution, and the constituents we serve.

Our objections to the federal criminalization of “hate crimes” are well-known because we have had the opportunity to air them as part of the regular legislative process. That is how this legislation should continue to be considered, not on the backs of members of our Armed Forces. They – and their families – deserve better.

House Republicans believe that all violent crimes are unacceptable, regardless of the status of the victims, and should be firmly punished. Although this legislation purports to assist state and local efforts to enforce existing laws, it represents a thinly veiled attack on federalism.

What's more, we cannot help but note that these provisions violate our nation's founding principles, which the members of our Armed Forces put their lives on the line every day to protect. It is these same principles each of us has sworn an oath to uphold.

To that end, had these “hate crimes” provisions not been included, we would have voted to support final passage of H.R. 2647.

Sincerely,

Mr 7H

John Abney Culberson TEXAS 7

Daniel A Magullo

Jeff Spang

Paul Bane

John Klein MN-2

Ken E. Jara

Devin Numan CA-21

Don G. Thompson PA-05

Bob Turner KS-4

Richard Bachmann
MA-6

J. Jordan OH-4

Lynell G. G. 43

Prosser IL 6

Van Burton Cooks

Sue Myrick

Steve Post OH-7

Thomas P. ^{A.C.}
GA-06

John G. ^{TX-5}

Jeffery ^{FL-12}

Robert ^{KS-3}

Jim Miller ^{FL-01}

Bob Brown ^{AL-1}

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{TX-2}

W. B. ^{LA-7}

Lynn Jenkins ^{KS-2}

~~Jan~~ ^{MO-06}

Phil ^{IN-6}

Ky. ^{TX-10}

Michael ^{TX-10}

John ^{TX-31}

Pete ^{TX-22}

Rick Hunter, Pa-9

R. H. / TX-11

Charles H. Rogers WA-05

Harold Rogers

Zimmerman

Scott Rogers

Constance Mack

Virginia Fox

ASAC

Mr. Madigan Az-3

Phil Brown TX 26

George Polenovich
CA-19

David Klein

Sam Coe OK-4

Jeff Felt

William Sizer ID 02

~~Robert R. Adair~~ AL-04 Andrew Chan FL4

Mark ~~Adair~~ 32-3 Pete Session (TX-32)

John Behn Mike R. (me)

Elli Cantu Doug Lamborn

R. Bracy John Boozman

Bob Goodlatte Bill Posey

Joe Wilson

HyEBP