

Resolution on Women in Combat
Reformed Episcopal Council of Bishops

WHEREAS, the President and Congress have moved the United States military services to abandon their historic policy of limiting combat military service to males and are now recruiting, training and assigning women to combat roles; and

WHEREAS, God created man in His own image, as male and female with specific and complementary characteristics (Genesis 1:27), so that male and female in relation constitute a complete expression of the divine order of humanity; and

WHEREAS, the equality of male and female, as to dignity and worth arising from their creation in the image of God, is fully consistent with distinction of function between male and female; and

WHEREAS, the Church has understood the Scriptures to teach that the basic unit of society is the family, wherein the husband as head has the primary responsibility of leader, provider and sacrificial protector, and the wife has the primary responsibility of supporter, nurturer and life-giver (1 Corinthians 11:2-16; Ephesians 5:22-32); and

WHEREAS, it is the special gift of God to women that they bear children for the preservation of the human race and the glory of God, and the policy of placing women in combat is destructive to the exercise of that gift; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a bill before the United States Congress that would include women in the military draft, to which women in the Reformed Episcopal Church have conscientious objection; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Bishops of the Reformed Episcopal Church do with loyal respect and deep concern, warn against and oppose any laws and policies, which would substitute sexual interchangeability for the aforementioned complementary but distinct responsibilities of male and female; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we give deepest gratitude and honor to those courageous women who have served their country in military support roles, especially those who have served in harm's way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we commit our prayer support to all military members and families serving this great nation around the world; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we call upon the President, Congress and all military leaders to reverse the present policy and to restore the historic limitation of military combat service to males only.