Mr. Chairman, this is the DOMA limitation

amendment. We've seen this last year where it passed out of the House

of Representatives with a substantial vote. And it says, as it reads,

that none of the funds made available by this act may be used in

contravention of the Defense of Marriage Act, which passed here in this

Congress in 1996.

What we've seen since the passage of the Defense of Marriage Act is

an effort on the part of the executive branch to undermine, I believe,

marriage between one man and one woman within our military ranks.

We saw the President of the United States make some statements along

the way that his position was evolving on marriage that seemed to be a

signal to the Department of Defense, which issued two memoranda, one of

them on September 21, the Secretary of Defense memorandum that

identified facilities, and it says that the facilities, our military

facilities should be made, the use of them should be made on a sexual

orientation-neutral basis. That's a signal that says same-sex marriages

on U.S. military bases and U.S. facilities.

The second memorandum came 9 days later to our military chaplains,

and it says a military chaplain may officiate any private ceremony, on

or off a military installation. That's not just permission, that's

implied encouragement to conduct same-sex marriages on our military

bases, conducted by our chaplains who are, presumably, all under the

payroll of the United States Government.

This same-sex marriage that has been taking place on our military

bases, where otherwise legal around the world, contravenes the Defense

of Marriage Act. The Defense of Marriage Act means this, actually says

specifically this: marriage means only a legal union between one man

and one woman, as husband and wife, and the word spouse refers only to

a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife. Pretty simple

statute being contravened by the directives of the President of the

United States as exercised through the Secretary of Defense.

And I would point out that the President has demonstrated disrespect

for the Constitution and the rule of law on multiple occasions. I just

came from the Judiciary Committee, where I reminded Secretary

Napolitano of the same thing.

Congress directs and acts within the authority of article I of the

Constitution, our legislative authority, and the President of the

United States, or his executives who are empowered by him, seek to

undermine the law of the United States, instead of coming here to this

Congress and asking for the law to be changed, or simply accepting the

idea that they've taken an oath to uphold the Constitution of the

United States and the rule of law, and to take care, under article II,

section 3, that the laws be faithfully executed.

That's not happening, Mr. Chairman, and this amendment prohibits the

use of military facilities, or the pay of military chaplains, from

being used to contravene the Defense of Marriage Act. The President has

now stepped out and said that he supports same-sex marriage in the

United States. That is, apparently, the most recent evolution of his

position.

But an evolving position of the President of the United States cannot

be allowed to contravene the will of the people of the United States,

as expressed through the statutes of the United States and as signed by

previous President Bill Clinton in September of 1996.

So I urge the adoption of this amendment. It prohibits the

utilization of any of these funds that are in the Defense

appropriations bill to be used to contravene the Defense of Marriage

Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.