

May 20, 2008

CONGRESSMAN AKIN INTRODUCES FREEDOM TO SERVE ACT

Washington, DC – In response to increased frequency of attempts to intimidate recruiters and potential recruits for the United States military, Congressman Akin (R-MO) has introduced the *Freedom to Serve Act of 2008* (FSA), HR 6023

Crafted in respect of the First Amendment rights of citizens, the bill seeks to protect those who have served our country and those who wish to serve our country in the United States military from attempts to intimidate and unduly restrict access to recruiters and recruiting facilities with threats of bodily harm, property damage or other violent action.

While respecting the First Amendment right to peacefully demonstrate, the FSA will establish specific federal criminal penalty for attempting to prevent military recruiting through acts of violence or intimidation.

"Throughout our history, members of the Armed Forces have inspired us with their bravery, honor and dedication," said Akin. "Passage of the FSA will honor that service while protecting the right to protest back home."