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## Christians in Congress to fight limits on military chaplains

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CAPITOL HILL Christian conservatives in Congress are expected to renew their fight to allow military chaplains to pray in the name of Jesus at public events.

House conservatives tried last week to attach language to a defense policy bill that would have allowed chaplains to pray "according to the dictates of the chaplain's own conscience."

North Carolina Congressman Walter Jones and other conservatives who supported the legislation call the issue a First Amendment right to free speech.

But their efforts were blocked by Virginia Senator John Warner, who said he wanted more time to debate such a measure.

Warner and California Congressman Duncan Hunter -- who negotiated the defense bill -- agreed to drop the provision but added another one asking the Navy and Air Force to rescind their policies aimed at increasing religious sensitivity.

A Navy chaplain based in Norfolk was reprimanded last month for disobeying an order and appearing at a news conference in his uniform. Lieutenant Gordon Klingenschmitt contends he was punished for praying in the name of Jesus.

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