

By: Morales of Harris, Neave, Romero, Jr.,
Perez, et al.

H.C.R. No. 51

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The brutal murder of Vanessa Guillén and the
2 reaction from service members on social media highlight the
3 military's inadequate response to sexual harassment, sexual
4 assault, and missing persons; and

5 WHEREAS, Fort Hood soldier Vanessa Guillén had been missing
6 for more than two months before her remains were discovered, and the
7 murder investigation received widespread attention when law
8 enforcement identified the suspect, a fellow military member whom
9 Guillén was planning to formally accuse of sexual harassment; this
10 prompted countless members of the U.S. military to share their
11 personal experiences of sexual harassment and sexual assault on
12 social media with the hashtag #IAMVanessaGuillen; and

13 WHEREAS, A close look at current military laws and policies
14 reveals concerning flaws, including conflicts of interest and
15 limited options for reporting sexual harassment; too many military
16 members have been failed by this system, and immediate action is
17 imperative to avoid another tragedy; and

18 WHEREAS, To correct these issues, the I am Vanessa Guillén
19 Act has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives; and

20 WHEREAS, The brave men and women who fight for our nation
21 deserve access to justice, and Congress should listen to the
22 service members calling for change in the aftermath of Vanessa
23 Guillén's murder; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas

1 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to pass
2 the I am Vanessa Guillén Act, legislation ensuring that necessary
3 changes are made, such as preventing conflicts of interest,
4 requiring independent investigations that are conducted by trained
5 investigators, establishing a confidential reporting option for
6 sexual harassment that can convert to a formal complaint, and
7 directing the Government Accountability Office to evaluate
8 response procedures related to missing service members; and, be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
11 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
12 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
13 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
14 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
15 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
16 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.