

By: Menendez

H.C.R. No. 28

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Requiring the military basic allowance for housing  
2 to be treated as income for purposes of determining eligibility for  
3 federally assisted low-income housing programs creates an unfair  
4 hardship for junior enlisted personnel and their families who  
5 cannot live on a military base because base housing is unavailable;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, These military families have the same need for  
8 quality affordable housing as low-income civilian families, yet  
9 civilian families who receive government housing vouchers to  
10 relocate from public housing to privately owned rental housing  
11 financed by the federal low-income housing tax credit and  
12 tax-exempt multi-family housing bond programs are not required to  
13 treat the government housing vouchers as income when establishing  
14 eligibility to participate in those programs; and

15           WHEREAS, This disparity in the treatment of federal housing  
16 payments to military and civilian personnel invariably results in  
17 the disqualification of military personnel from federal rental  
18 housing programs, even though the taxable income levels of military  
19 personnel and their qualifying civilian counterparts may be exactly  
20 the same; and

21           WHEREAS, Ensuring that the men and women on active duty in the  
22 United States Armed Forces have decent, safe, and affordable  
23 housing is vitally important to our national safety and security,  
24 especially in communities where growing installations have put

1 pressure on the local housing market and created a shortage of  
2 quality housing for essential military personnel; and

3 WHEREAS, A July 2006 U.S. Government Accountability Office  
4 report on rental assistance for the military found that excluding  
5 service members' housing allowance from income determinations for  
6 federal rental housing programs could substantially increase the  
7 percentage of service members eligible to apply for the programs  
8 and stimulate local housing production; and

9 WHEREAS, Contrary to these findings, U.S. Department of  
10 Housing and Urban Development rules to implement the Department of  
11 Housing and Urban Development Act require the military basic  
12 allowance for housing to be considered as income for purposes of  
13 qualifying for participation in certain federally assisted  
14 low-income housing programs; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
16 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to amend  
17 the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act to prohibit the  
18 inclusion of the military basic allowance for housing as income for  
19 purposes of determining eligibility for federally assisted  
20 low-income housing programs; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official  
22 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to  
23 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the  
24 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the  
25 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this  
26 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a  
27 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.