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By:  Reynolds H.C.R. No. 170

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act is critical to protecting Americans from gender-based violence, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and

WHEREAS, Gender-based violence has a devastating impact on survivors, their families, and their communities; such assaults can have serious health consequences for survivors and can disrupt their education, undermine their ability to work, and jeopardize their ability to maintain stable housing for themselves and their children; and

WHEREAS, Since Congress passed VAWA in 1994, rates of violence, on average, have decreased; the act has been reauthorized three times, and H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019, introduced in the 116th Congress, is a bipartisan bill that strengthens VAWA with modest yet important upgrades grounded in a modern understanding of gender-based violence and the needs of survivors from all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, The VAWA Reauthorization Act would improve services for victims and responses by health care systems; in addition, it includes provisions to combat online predators of the young, prevent campus violence, and reduce homicide rates by lawfully protecting survivors from abusers with firearms; it would also enhance legal tools to hold perpetrators accountable and increase access to justice and safety for American Indian and Alaska Native women; moreover, it would help mitigate the detrimental impact of gender-based violence on the economic security of survivors and support the ability of survivors to maintain or secure safe housing in public, subsidized, and assisted housing; and

WHEREAS, All Americans deserve to live their lives in safety, free from the threat of violence, and although the nation has made significant progress in recent years, it can and should do more to protect the vulnerable and ensure availability of vital resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the U.S. Congress to pass H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019; and, be it further

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