

No. R-197. House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance for U.S. military personnel of the award-winning documentary film *The Invisible War*.

(H.C.R.145)

Offered by: Representatives O'Sullivan of Burlington, Bissonnette of Winooski, Cole of Burlington, Conquest of Newbury, Dakin of Chester, Emmons of Springfield, Evans of Essex, Gallivan of Chittenden, Goodwin of Weston, Head of South Burlington, Heath of Westford, Krowinski of Burlington, Lenex of Shelburne, Macaig of Williston, Martin of Springfield, Martin of Wolcott, McCarthy of St. Albans City, McCullough of Williston, Michelsen of Hardwick, Miller of Shaftsbury, Pugh of South Burlington, Savage of Swanton, Spengler of Colchester, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Sweaney of Windsor, Till of Jericho, Toll of Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Vowinkel of Hartford, Wizowaty of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, sexual assaults in the U.S. military have not been diligently adjudicated, and historically, media reporting was sparse, and

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Defense estimated that 19,300 service members were sexually assaulted in 2010, and

Whereas, documentary film director Kirby Dick and producers Amy Ziering and Tanner King Barklow adapted Columbia University journalism professor Helen Benedict's 2007 *Salon.com* article "The Private War of Women Soldiers" as a documentary film entitled *The Invisible War*, and

Whereas, this revealing documentary film has been honored with several awards and was nominated for an Academy Award in the Best Documentary Feature category, and

Whereas, nine sexually assaulted military personnel, eight females and one male, including U.S. Coast Guard Seaman Kori Cioca; U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Jessica Hinves; U.S. Marine Corps Officer Ariana Klay; U.S. Navy Seaman Trina McDonald; U.S. Marine Corps Second Lieutenant Elle Helmer; U.S. Navy Seaman Hannah Sewell; U.S. Army Sergeant Myla Haider; U.S. Navy Lieutenant Paula Coughlin; and U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant Michael Matthews bravely agreed to forgo their privacy to tell their stories in this film, and

Whereas, various senior active and retired military officials and civilian experts, including Helen Benedict and eight members of Congress, also appeared in this film, and

Whereas, although the publicity resulting from this film prompted the U.S. Secretary of Defense to initiate changes in the Department's handling of sexual assault allegations, the problem of inconsistent prosecution of military personnel accused of committing sexual assault persists, and

Whereas, in Vermont, the House Committee on General, Housing and Military Affairs has developed legislation requiring the Adjutant and Inspector General to report annually on sexual assault or harassment complaints in the Vermont National Guard, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance for U.S. military personnel of the newly released documentary film *The Invisible War*, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Chain Camera Pictures in Los Angeles, to the military personnel named in this resolution, and to Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General Steven Cray.