



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE RIGHTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS IN THE MILITARY

WHEREAS, Since 1929, LULAC has played a crucial role in the promotion of human rights and social justice, and in keeping with its mission, the organization is advocating for victims of sexual assault in the military; and

WHEREAS, More than 6,000 sexual assaults were reported to the United States military in 2016, but officials believe that the incidence of such crimes is much higher; the Pentagon's senior executive adviser for the sexual assault prevention office has stated that an estimated 60 percent of female victims and 90 percent of male victims do not report instances of assault; only one in five reported cases was prosecuted in 2015; and

WHEREAS, A pervasive culture of retaliation is a major factor in the severe underreporting of sexual assault; a recent military survey found that nearly 70 percent of victims experienced negative consequences for reporting sexual assault; forms of reprisal ranged from abusive behavior, ostracism, and career disruption to involuntary discharge and courts-martial; the Department of Defense Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military for fiscal year 2015 noted that an alarming 58 percent of retaliators were in the assault survivor's chain of command; and

WHEREAS, Although statistics for sexual assault in the state military are not available, the high incidence of such assaults at federal military bases in Texas indicates the need to improve reporting of such crimes at the state level and ensure that survivors and witnesses are protected, not punished; LULAC's determination to raise its voice in this regard sends an important message to survivors of sexual assault and serves to remind the public of the organization's enduring commitment to human rights in all sectors of society;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That LULAC be commended for its dedication to social justice and for its resolve to support the rights of sexual assault survivors in the military.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2017 LULAC National Convention on July 8, 2017.

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President