

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 51

Reps. Jones, Rogers, Sabo, Thanedar, Cavanagh, Peterson, Brenda Carter, Tyrone Carter, O'Neal, Aiyash, Tate, Breen, Whitsett, Manoogian, Kuppa, Hood, Sowerby and Coleman offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to urge the Congress of the United States and the  
2 United States Department of Defense to strengthen policies to  
3 prevent and respond to sexual assault and harassment in the  
4 military.

5           Whereas, A recent report on sexual assaults released by the  
6 U.S. Department of Defense found that the number of sexual assault  
7 reports by service members increased from Fiscal Year 2018 to  
8 Fiscal Year 2019, from 6,053 incidents to 6,236 incidents. Women  
9 between the ages of 17 and 24 reported the largest increase in  
10 sexual assault; and

1           Whereas, Toxic and harassing command cultures set the stage  
2 for sexual violence. Gender-based misperceptions and systemic  
3 gender discrimination affect workplace camaraderie, creating an  
4 environment where harassment can flourish. Ineffective responses to  
5 sexual harassment and assault have resulted in fear of retaliation  
6 and underreporting of cases by victims; and

7           Whereas, Environments that support harassment and sexual  
8 assault lead to additional violent crimes, including murder, as was  
9 the case with deaths at Fort Hood in 2020; and

10           Whereas, The new Secretary of Defense has expressed a serious  
11 commitment to eliminating this persistent problem in the military.  
12 Members of the United States Armed Forces make tremendous personal  
13 sacrifice on behalf of our nation and it is vital that our  
14 government does everything it can to protect them from harassment  
15 and assault; now, therefore, be it

16           Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
17 Congress of the United States and the United States Department of  
18 Defense to strengthen policies to prevent and respond to sexual  
19 assault and harassment in the military; and be it further

20           Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
21 United States Secretary of Defense, the President of the United  
22 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
23 Representatives, and the Michigan congressional delegation.