



HR1253

LRB100 23432 ALS 42465 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, It is of utmost importance that we honor those who
3 have fought and served for the freedom of our nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Many veterans returning from service suffer from
5 physical and psychological ailments, which makes finding and
6 maintaining employment and consistent housing difficult; and

7 WHEREAS, Nearly 80% of homeless veterans suffer from mental
8 health disorders, substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders,
9 with Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) being one of the
10 largest mental health challenges for returning veterans; and

11 WHEREAS, Since the American Revolution, over 2.5 million
12 American women have served, or are serving, honorably in the
13 United States Armed Forces; and

14 WHEREAS, Currently, of the over 22 million veterans in the
15 United States, 2.2 million are women; of the over 495,000
16 unemployed veterans in the United States, approximately 23,000
17 are women; of the over 47,000 homeless veterans in the United
18 States, over 4,000 are women; and

19 WHEREAS, From 2016 to 2017, the number of homeless female
20 veterans increased by seven percent, compared to the one

1 percent increase of their male counterparts; women veterans are
2 two to three times more likely to be homeless than any other
3 group in the United States adult population; homeless female
4 veterans are the fastest-growing demographic in the homeless
5 community; and

6 WHEREAS, One factor that contributes to this discrepancy is
7 military sexual assault; the rate of violent sexual crimes
8 within the military has increased by 64% since 2006; while
9 women constitute only 14.6% of the military, they account for
10 95% of reported military sexual assault victims; and

11 WHEREAS, Female veterans who are victims of military sexual
12 assault are nine times more likely to develop PTSD and 6.5
13 times more likely to experience homelessness; and

14 WHEREAS, Many victims of military sexual assault do not
15 feel comfortable seeking help through the military resource of
16 the Department of Veterans Affairs; an estimated 82% of women
17 veterans do not use the Department of Veterans Affairs, leaving
18 over 1.8 million women veterans without access to homeless
19 prevention services; and

20 WHEREAS, Other factors in homelessness among female
21 veterans include the lack of access to affordable childcare
22 services, limited access to gender-specific services at

1 Veterans Affairs medical centers, and an increased risk for
2 mental health disorders; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
4 Veterans Affairs, over 55,000 women veterans reside in the
5 state of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, In Illinois, 13% of our veterans are homeless,
7 including 1,100 women veterans across the state; therefore, be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the
11 number of homeless female veterans is a tragedy and disgrace
12 for the women who have so honorably served and protected our
13 nation; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we pay honor to and recognize our homeless
15 female veterans by designating October 7, 2018 as Homeless
16 Women Veterans Day in the State of Illinois; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
18 presented to the Department of Veterans Affairs, all members of
19 the Illinois General Assembly, and the Governor of the State of
20 Illinois.