

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 475**

Introduced by Vargas, 7.

WHEREAS, Army Specialist Vanessa Guillén was murdered on April 22, 2020, at the age of 20 after experiencing sexual harassment by another soldier; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the United States Department of Defense reported 6,236 sexual assaults and recorded a three percent increase in the number of sexual assault cases compared to the previous year; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment and violence disproportionately impacts women of color who are also less likely to report their sexual harassment or assault out of fear or retaliation; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment and violence in the military against women of color is deeply concerning, particularly given that Latinos are the fastest growing population in the ranks of the United States military, accounting for up to 16 percent of all active-duty military; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Legislature has taken positive and encouraging steps against sexual harassment and violence, including Laws 2019, LB532, which made harassment protection orders more accessible for survivors to pursue, the recently passed LB43, which creates the Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights, and LB745 as amended into LB518 (2020), which would provide access to visas for victims of human trafficking when they come forward to report the crimes against them.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature extends heartfelt sympathy to the friends and family of Army Specialist Vanessa Guillén.
2. That the Legislature condemns sexual abuse, harassment, and violence.
3. That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the family of Army

Specialist Vanessa Guillén.