



Introduced Version

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 62

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Indiana federal congressional delegation to support efforts to assist victims of sexual assault by military members in obtaining justice through the Military Justice Improvement Act of 2017.

BOOTS

March 12, 2018, read first time and referred to Committee on Rules and Legislative Procedure.



SENATE RESOLUTION No. 62

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION urging the Indiana federal
2 congressional delegation to support efforts to assist victims of
3 sexual assault by military members in obtaining justice through
4 the Military Justice Improvement Act of 2017.

5 *Whereas, The United States Military has an ongoing issue*
6 *with protecting military members against serious crimes,*
7 *including those related to sexual assault;*

8 *Whereas, Military members bringing forward reports of*
9 *Article 120 crimes including aggravated or abusive sexual*
10 *contact, sexual assault, or rape must go through the member's*
11 *chain of command in order to have charges brought against a*
12 *perpetrator through preferral and referral of charges;*

13 *Whereas, Only a third of military victims of sexual assault*
14 *crimes in 2016 reported the incident due to concerns about*
15 *being stigmatized, ridiculed, or experiencing retaliation if they*
16 *report being assaulted through their chain of command;*

17 *Whereas, The Military Justice Improvement Act of 2017*
18 *would remove charging actions out of the chain of command by*
19 *requiring military offenses with maximum punishments of*



1 *confinement over one year to have charges be preferred and*
2 *referred by an Armed Forces officer in grade O-6 or higher, is*
3 *available to be a trial counsel, has significant experience in*
4 *trials, and is outside the chain of command;*

5 *Whereas, Armed Forces Judge Advocates are the most-*
6 *equipped individuals within the military to make legal*
7 *judgments, including the preferral of charges, on serious*
8 *military offenses;*

9 *Whereas, Indiana houses multiple military installations*
10 *and deploys more troops per capita than other states to*
11 *support and defend the United States; and*

12 *Whereas, In order to remain combat-ready, military*
13 *members in Indiana and other states should not have the*
14 *added worry of reprisal or retaliation for bringing forward*
15 *reports of serious misconduct and deserve to be treated with*
16 *support through the military justice system: Therefore,*

17 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
18 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

19 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate urges the Indiana
20 federal congressional delegation to support efforts to assist
21 victims of sexual assault by military members in obtaining
22 justice through the Military Justice Improvement Act of 2017.

23 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
24 to transmit copies of this Resolution to each member of the
25 Indiana federal congressional delegation.

