

Summary of Vanessa Guillén Military Justice Improvement and Increasing Prevention Act (VG-MJIIPA)

- Sponsor: Rep. Jackie Speier
- Co-leads: Rep. Mike Turner, Rep. Anthony G. Brown, Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Rep. Elaine Luria, Rep. Trent Kelly, Rep. Veronica Escobar, Rep. Markwayne Mullin, Rep. Sylvia Garcia, Rep. Richard Hudson
- This is the House companion to the Senate bill introduced by Sens. Gillibrand, Ernst, and Grassley. The Senate version has 66 bipartisan cosponsors.
- The Act would transfer the decision to prosecute a servicemember, under the military justice system, for felony-level non-military crimes (such as murder, rape, and domestic violence) from commanders to military attorneys with significant trial experience.
- The Act makes no change to how military-specific offenses, such as an orders violation or absent without leave, would be prosecuted under the military justice system.
- It also contains provisions that would improve training for servicemembers on response to sexual assault, increase professional development for prosecutors, and improve the physical security of living accommodations on military installations.

Differences between VG-MJIIPA and the I am Vanessa Guillén Act (IAVGA)

- IAVGA would only remove Article 120 sexual assault and sexual harassment crimes out of the chain of command, not all non-military felonies.
- IAVGA also includes provisions to make sexual harassment a standalone UCMJ article, require independent and trained professionals to conduct sexual harassment investigations, compensate victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment when negligence is involved, and reform the Army's sexual assault prevention and response programs in line with the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee recommendations.