



TEXAS HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES

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MIHAELA E. PLESA

Contact: karrol.rimal@house.texas.gov

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 70

Representative Plesa Issues Statement on HR 85

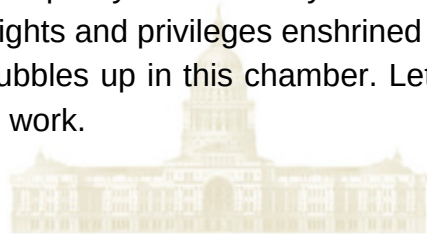
I chose to honor two constituents for their civic engagement and outstanding contributions to House District 70 and Collin County. The constituents I'm honoring are a married couple, one of whom is a decorated war veteran who educates the next generation of healthcare providers, and his husband, a longtime attorney and respected member of the business community. I'm proud to know Mark and Vic and I'm proud to share their story with the Texas House. I'm disappointed that some of my colleagues are trying to erase their accomplishments and reduce them to labels and identity politics.

I find it deeply hurtful that HR 85 has been targeted by a handful of disruptive and unproductive members. All of us file resolutions to honor achievements in our district and I'm proud to serve on the Resolutions Calendars Committee. I have never tried to block another member's resolution or restrict who they can honor. Resolutions do not create or change laws, they're purely symbolic.

I won't allow a radical agenda of hatred and division to tarnish this resolution and above all else, I refuse to allow Texans to be used as political pawns or be subjected to harassment. I've spoken with Mark and Vic, and we've decided to pull this resolution down from consideration. We will not be a party to the hatefulness on display. I will still honor them with a resolution that will not need to go before the full House and Mark and Vic will continue their civic engagement and service to our community. We are undeterred and we are laser-focused on meaningful legislation and change.

My staff and I have been focused on our robust legislative agenda prioritizing recapture reform, boosting economic stability, keeping teachers teaching, and keeping kids safe. We've been working on keeping mother's healthy, our streets safe, securing our border and securing our grid. We won't allow an ineffective and unserious member, or a failed former member whose constituents voted them out, to distract us from the work at hand or use us to divide this honorable body.

I feel compelled to emphasize that this is the people's House. LGBTQ+ Texans are real people who exist and live in our state -- they serve in this very chamber, in chambers of commerce, in courtrooms and classrooms, they put on the uniform and put their lives on the line for our safety and freedom. This is their House too. The attacks, erasure, and vilification of LGBTQ+ Texans must end. I'm urging all of my colleagues to recognize that marriage equality is and always will be the law of the land; that gay people deserve and are entitled to the same rights and privileges enshrined unto all of us. I'm praying for an end to the perennial hate and division that bubbles up in this chamber. Let's not forget we start everyday stating we are one and indivisible. Let's get to work.



CAPITOL OFFICE: P.O. BOX 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 • PHONE (512) 463-0356

MIHAELA.PLESA@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV