

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.2003-4647, by Representatives Romero and Hunt

WHEREAS, America has a proud history of achieving social change which at times has required civil disobedience and protest; and

WHEREAS, No citizen peacefully protesting here or abroad should face imprisonment or death for these actions; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Corrie, a 23-year-old college student at The Evergreen State College and citizen of Washington state, died when an Israeli bulldozer crushed her as she protested the demolition of a Palestinian home; and

WHEREAS, Rachel Corrie was dedicated to issues of peace and justice; and

WHEREAS, As the youngest of three children raised in a home near Mud Bay, Rachel is recalled by her family as inquisitive and articulate, and very concerned about the world around her; and

WHEREAS, Rachel attended an alternative elementary school her family helped found in the 1980s that focused on the environment, social justice, and peace; and

WHEREAS, As a fifth-grader, Rachel and her classmates held a news conference on the steps of the State Capitol to call attention to world hunger; and

WHEREAS, In high school, Rachel helped foreign-exchange students learn about America, and in college, she worked with the homeless, staffed a suicide hotline, and helped outfit children and adults as doves to march in an annual "Procession of the Species" parade; and

WHEREAS, Regardless of anyone's stand on the Israeli-Palestinian question, Rachel's death was needless and should be investigated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Legislature uphold the principles of free speech and the rights of all citizens to peaceable protest for whatever cause they choose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of Representatives request the President of the United States or Congress to conduct an investigation into the circumstances of Rachel's death and share the results of that investigation with the people of the United States.