

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention
2 Month in Kentucky and honoring Kentucky's 13 regional rape crisis centers and
3 individuals who have been sexually assaulted and abused.

4 WHEREAS, Kentucky has a higher rate of sexual assault than the national average.
5 This fact must be brought into public focus because sexual assault and abuse cannot be
6 prevented until it is openly recognized and addressed; and

7 WHEREAS, sexual assault and abuse has been determined to be a public health
8 crisis, hurting individuals and communities mentally, physically, and financially; and

9 WHEREAS, all Kentuckians have a right to be safe from harm, and Kentucky can
10 reduce sexual assault and abuse through policies that increase protective factors and
11 decrease risk factors; and

12 WHEREAS, every Kentuckian is impacted by sexual assault and abuse; and

13 WHEREAS, survivors of sexual assault and abuse are at a substantially greater risk
14 for trauma-related health problems, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder,
15 suicidal ideation, sleep disorders, and eating disorders; and

16 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the strength, courage, and challenges faced
17 by individuals who are sexually assaulted and abused, as well as their families and
18 friends, and to acknowledge that not all individuals survive the horrific long-term trauma
19 that often occurs in the wake of sexual assault and abuse; and

20 WHEREAS, a coalition of rape crisis centers known as the Kentucky Association of
21 Sexual Assault Programs was formed 32 years ago to directly confront sexual assault and
22 abuse; and

23 WHEREAS, last year, Kentucky's regional rape crisis centers responded to over
24 5,000 crisis calls, provided more than 18,800 counseling sessions, performed over 3,700
25 advocacy services, and provided over 2,300 educational programs for nearly 69,400
26 Kentuckians; and

27 WHEREAS, sexual assault and abuse can be prevented and Kentucky's regional

1 rape crisis centers are working with allies to implement primary prevention efforts by
2 empowering Kentuckians to collaborate and act to prevent sexual assault and abuse; and

3 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the
4 individuals involved in these efforts, to applaud their commitment, and to increase public
5 awareness of this significant problem;

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

7 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
8 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

9 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes April as Sexual Assault
10 Awareness and Prevention Month in Kentucky and honors Kentucky's 13 regional rape
11 crisis centers for their decades of dedicated efforts to assist survivors, raise awareness,
12 and prevent sexual assault and abuse.

13 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
14 honor of Kentucky's 13 regional rape crisis centers and individuals who have been
15 sexually assaulted and abused.

16 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby directed to
17 transit a copy of this Resolution to Melissa Quillen, Executive Director, Kentucky
18 Association of Sexual Assault Programs, P.O. Box 4028, Frankfort, KY 40604.