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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1023 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY DELOZIER, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BOBACK, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, BULLOCK, CALTAGIRONE, COOK-ARTIS, CORBIN, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DEAN, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, DUSH, EVERETT, FARRY, FEE, FRANKEL, GABLER, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GROVE, HARHART, A. HARRIS, J. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HELM, HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, IRVIN, KAVULICH, M. K. KELLER, KLUNK, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSICO, MATZIE, McCARTER, MILLARD, MILNE, MURT, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, OBERLANDER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PEIFER, PICKETT, M. QUINN, READSHAW, REGAN, ROEBUCK, ROSS, ROZZI, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SONNEY, STAATS, TOEPEL, TOOIL, VEREB, WHEELAND AND YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2016 as "Domestic Violence  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior  
4 used to establish power and control over an intimate partner;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often causes emotional harm to  
7 victims, their children, other family members, friends,  
8 neighbors and coworkers; and

9 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects men and women from all  
10 racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic  
11 backgrounds; and

12 WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms, whereby victims

1 are often subjected to abuse, harassment, threats, vandalism,  
2 trespassing, burglary, theft and stalking; and

3 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often escalates, causing victims  
4 to suffer physical and emotional trauma, anxiety, stress, sleep  
5 deprivation, loss of confidence, fear and in some cases, injury  
6 and death by suicide or homicide; and

7 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is one of the most chronically  
8 underreported crimes; and

9 WHEREAS, There are many barriers to detecting domestic  
10 violence; and

11 WHEREAS, One in every four women and one in every nine men  
12 will experience domestic violence in his or her lifetime; and

13 WHEREAS, One in six women and 1 in 33 men have experienced an  
14 attempted or completed rape; and

15 WHEREAS, Approximately 1.3 million women and 835,000 men are  
16 physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the  
17 United States; and

18 WHEREAS, Thirty to sixty percent of perpetrators of intimate  
19 partner violence also abuse children in the home; and

20 WHEREAS, Intimate partner violence results in more than 18.5  
21 million mental health care visits each year; and

22 WHEREAS, The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8  
23 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical  
24 and mental health services; and

25 WHEREAS, Less than 20% of victims who report an injury from  
26 intimate partner violence seek medical treatment following the  
27 injury; and

28 WHEREAS, Children who witness domestic violence in their  
29 homes are 74% more likely to commit criminal assaults as adults;  
30 and

1       WHEREAS, Collectively, victims of domestic violence lose  
2 almost 8 million days of paid work annually as a result of the  
3 violence; and

4       WHEREAS, Each year, businesses forfeit about \$100 million in  
5 lost wages, sick leave, absenteeism and nonproductivity; and

6       WHEREAS, Only about 20% of those who experience intimate  
7 partner violence obtain protection from abuse orders; and

8       WHEREAS, Each year, domestic violence programs in this  
9 Commonwealth provide services to approximately 95,000 victims of  
10 domestic violence; and

11       WHEREAS, To increase victims' safety, authorities must  
12 carefully follow screening, reporting, documentation and  
13 referral requirements; and

14       WHEREAS, At-risk individuals and families need victim  
15 education relating to their legal rights, judicial proceedings,  
16 advocacy, counseling and support services, shelter care and  
17 crisis intervention; therefore be it

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
19 month of October 2016 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in  
20 Pennsylvania.