
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 247 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, ROZZI, BISHOP, SCHREIBER, BAKER, McNEILL,
COHEN, SCHWEYER, KINSEY, PASHINSKI, CALTAGIRONE, O'BRIEN,
McCARTER, BROWNLEE, MURT, DeLUCA, ROEBUCK AND FARINA,
APRIL 16, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 16, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging Pennsylvania's professional sports teams to adopt a zero-
2 tolerance domestic violence policy.

3 WHEREAS, Domestic violence includes any threatening or
4 abusive behavior used to establish power and control over an
5 intimate partner; and

6 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is perpetrated against individuals
7 regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion,
8 profession or gender; and

9 WHEREAS, Victims of domestic violence can be married to,
10 living with or dating the assailant; and

11 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects people of all
12 socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels; and

13 WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms and victims are
14 often subjected to abuse, harassment, threats, vandalism,
15 trespassing, burglary, theft and stalking; and

16 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often escalates, causing victims

1 to suffer physical and emotional trauma, anxiety, stress, sleep
2 deprivation, loss of confidence, fear and in some cases, injury
3 and death by suicide or homicide; and

4 WHEREAS, Studies show that up to 10 million children witness
5 some form of domestic violence annually; and

6 WHEREAS, Men who witnessed domestic violence in their homes
7 as children are twice as likely to abuse their spouses than men
8 who are children of nonviolent parents; and

9 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is one of the most chronically
10 underreported crimes and there are many barriers to detecting
11 domestic violence; and

12 WHEREAS, One in four women and one in seven men will be the
13 victim of severe violence by an intimate partner in their
14 lifetime; and

15 WHEREAS, Three women are murdered every day by a current or
16 former male partner in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
18 reports that 141 Pennsylvania residents lost their lives to
19 domestic violence in 2014 alone; and

20 WHEREAS, The number one reason domestic violence survivors
21 stay or return to the abusive relationship is because the abuser
22 controls access to money, leaving them with no financial
23 resources to break free; and

24 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth and citizens of this
25 nation have been stunned by news reports of domestic violence,
26 particularly stories of professional athletes harming or
27 threatening to harm their spouses; and

28 WHEREAS, These news reports have revealed that violent
29 behavior is a deep and pervasive problem among some
30 professional athletes; and

1 WHEREAS, Players on professional sports teams are considered
2 role models, and while many may not choose to be role models,
3 their participation in games that are enjoyed by millions of
4 American men, women and children puts a spotlight on their every
5 action; and

6 WHEREAS, It is critical that a zero-tolerance policy for
7 domestic violence be adopted by professional sports team owners,
8 coaches, staff and players; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge
10 Pennsylvania's professional sports teams to adopt a zero-
11 tolerance domestic violence policy; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
13 the owners of each of Pennsylvania's professional sports teams.