
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 503 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY DELOZIER, CORBIN, ACOSTA, BISHOP, BIZZARRO,
BOBACK, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN,
P. DALEY, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, DUSH, FEE,
FRANKEL, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, A. HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY,
PHILLIPS-HILL, IRVIN, JAMES, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KIM,
KINSEY, KIRKLAND, KLUNK, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MAHONEY,
MAJOR, MATZIE, McNEILL, MILLARD, MURT, NEILSON, NEUMAN,
O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, C. PARKER, D. PARKER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE,
PICKETT, QUINN, READSHAW, REGAN, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, SAINATO,
SANTORA, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHREIBER, SCHWEYER, SNYDER, SONNEY,
STAATS, TAYLOR, THOMAS, TOEPEL, WATSON, WHEELAND, YOUNGBLOOD,
ZIMMERMAN AND FARINA, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2015 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 2015 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in
20 Pennsylvania.