
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 200 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY CAPPELLETTI, HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, BROWNE, KEARNEY,
COSTA, BROOKS, COMITTA, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, MENSCH, SCAVELLO,
PHILLIPS-HILL, KANE, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, GORDNER, MUTH,
STREET, HUTCHINSON AND FLYNN, OCTOBER 27, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 27, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2021 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 another in an intimate
5 or familial relationship; and

6 WHEREAS, Reports have indicated that domestic violence has
7 been on the rise since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Domestic violence impacts victims, their children,
10 other family members, friends, neighbors and coworkers; and

11 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects individuals from all
12 racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic
13 backgrounds; and

14 WHEREAS, Domestic violence has a disproportionate impact in
15 communities most affected by trauma exposure, structural
16 racism and other health disparities; and

17 WHEREAS, Barriers to accessing services increase the risk for

1 undocumented people, people with disabilities, children, members
2 of BIPOC communities who feel unsafe interacting with law
3 enforcement and LGBTQ people, particularly members of the trans
4 community, who face difficulties accessing gender-appropriate
5 shelter services; and

6 WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms, and the victims
7 are often subjected to physical and emotional abuse, harassment,
8 threats, financial abuse and stalking; and

9 WHEREAS, Domestic violence can cause victims to suffer
10 physical and emotional trauma, anxiety, stress and sleep
11 deprivation and has been linked to long-term health issues; and

12 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a chronically underreported
13 crime; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the National Coalition Against Domestic
15 Violence, 37.1% of Pennsylvania women and 30.4% of Pennsylvania
16 men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate
17 partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in
18 their lifetimes; and

19 WHEREAS, One in four women and one in seven men will
20 experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner; and

21 WHEREAS, In the last 10 years, more than 1,600 people have
22 died from domestic violence-related incidents in Pennsylvania;
23 and

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

27 WHEREAS, Each year, domestic violence programs in
28 Pennsylvania provide services to nearly 90,000 victims of
29 domestic violence; and

30 WHEREAS, Thirty percent to sixty percent of perpetrators of

1 intimate partner violence also abuse children in the home; and

2 WHEREAS, More than 15 million children are exposed to
3 domestic violence each year, and those children are at a greater
4 risk for repeating the cycle of abuse as adults; and

5 WHEREAS, Survivors of domestic violence and their families
6 need education relating to their legal rights, judicial
7 proceedings, advocacy, counseling and support services, shelter
8 care and crisis intervention; and

9 WHEREAS, The strength of this Commonwealth relies on healthy,
10 peaceful families and the safety of its residents, especially
11 women and children, and this strength must be ensured by
12 immediate intervention of the Commonwealth's justice system and
13 other responsible and appropriate services; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2021
15 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
18 Laurel House, P.O. Box 764, Norristown, PA 19404; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
21 Domestic Abuse Project, 14 West Second Street, Media, PA 19063.