
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 215 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY KILLION, AUMENT, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BLAKE,
BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, BROOKS, BROWNE, COSTA, DINNIMAN, FARNESE,
FOLMER, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, HAYWOOD, HUGHES, LAUGHLIN, LEACH,
MARTIN, MCGARRIGLE, McILHINNEY, MENSCH, RAFFERTY,
RESCHENTHALER, SABATINA, SCAVELLO, SCHWANK, STREET,
TARTAGLIONE, VOGEL, WAGNER, WARD, WHITE AND YUDICHAK,
OCTOBER 16, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 16, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2017 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, and the victims
13 are often subjected to abuse, harassment, threats, financial
14 abuse and stalking; and

15 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often escalates over time, causing

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

4 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is one of the most chronically
5 underreported crimes; and

6 WHEREAS, One in four women and one in seven men will
7 experience domestic violence in his or her lifetime; and

8 WHEREAS, Each year, approximately 2.3 million people are
9 physically or sexually assaulted by a current or former spouse
10 or intimate partner; and

11 WHEREAS, On average, three women are killed by a current or
12 former intimate partner each day in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against
14 Domestic Violence, in 2016 there were 102 fatalities associated
15 with domestic violence; and

16 WHEREAS, In a 2017 report, the Centers for Disease Control
17 and Prevention found that approximately 10% of high school
18 students reported physical victimization and 10% reported sexual
19 victimization from a dating partner in the 12 months prior; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, Victims of domestic violence lose approximately 8
27 million days of paid work annually as a result of the violence;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Each year, businesses forfeit approximately \$100
30 million in lost wages, sick leave, absenteeism and

1 nonproductivity; and

2 WHEREAS, Each year, domestic violence programs in
3 Pennsylvania provide services to nearly 90,000 victims of
4 domestic violence; and

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

7 WHEREAS, 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic
8 violence each year and those exposed in their homes are 74% more
9 likely to commit criminal assaults as adults; and

10 WHEREAS, At-risk individuals and families need education
11 relating to their legal rights, judicial proceedings, advocacy,
12 counseling and support services, shelter care and crisis
13 intervention; and

14 WHEREAS, The strength of this Commonwealth relies on healthy,
15 peaceful families and the safety of its residents, especially
16 women and children, and this strength must be ensured by
17 immediate intervention of the State's justice system and other
18 responsible and appropriate services; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2017
20 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be
21 it further

22 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
23 the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 3605
24 Vartan Way, Suite 101, Harrisburg, PA 17110.