

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 256 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, BARTOLOTTA, CAPPELLETTI, SCHWANK, COLLETT, COMITTA, L. WILLIAMS, MUTH, BOSCOLA, HAYWOOD, STREET, FONTANA, KANE, SANTARSIERO, HUGHES, SAVAL, CULVER, COSTA, BREWSTER AND DILLON, APRIL 5, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 5, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2024 as "Sexual Assault Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, April is nationally recognized as "Sexual Assault
4 Awareness Month" to call attention to the fact that sexual
5 violence is widespread and impacts every community; and

6 WHEREAS, April 2024 marks the 23rd anniversary of the
7 designation of "Sexual Assault Awareness Month"; and

8 WHEREAS, Rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment have a
9 deep physical and emotional trauma on those who have experienced
10 it; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the National Sexual Violence Resource
12 Center, rape in the United States occurs more frequently than
13 the public realizes, as one in five women and one in 71 men have
14 been raped in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Eighty-one percent of women and 43% of men reported
16 experiencing some form of sexual harassment and assault in their
17 lifetime; and

1 WHEREAS, Lesbian and bisexual women may be up to three times
2 as likely as heterosexual women to report having been sexually
3 assaulted during their lifetime; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 90% of individuals with a developmental
5 delay or disability will be sexually assaulted at least once in
6 their lifetime; and

7 WHEREAS, The prevalence of false reporting for sexual assault
8 crimes is low and estimated between 2% and 10%; and

9 WHEREAS, For every 100 rape and sexual assault victimizations
10 of teenage girls and women reported to the police, only 18 lead
11 to an arrest; and

12 WHEREAS, Communities can support survivors by believing their
13 stories, showing respect and championing their individual
14 support networks; and

15 WHEREAS, Individuals speaking out against inappropriate
16 jokes, offensive gestures, harmful attitudes and unwanted
17 actions make a positive impact toward ending sexual harassment,
18 abuse and assault; and

19 WHEREAS, Consent and boundaries can be violated online in a
20 number of ways; and

21 WHEREAS, Individuals can work together to make their
22 communities safer by providing prevention education and
23 increasing public awareness to avoid future harm from sexual
24 violence; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of April 2024
26 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the 23rd anniversary of
29 "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" to empower more survivors and
30 their loved ones on their journey to help, hope and heal; and be

1 it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage communities to understand
3 their role in ending sexual violence in Pennsylvania and the
4 United States; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage communities to commit to
6 make a difference to ensure that online platforms are safe and
7 respectful for everyone by practicing consent, keeping kids safe
8 and supporting survivors.