

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 348 Session of  
2022

---

INTRODUCED BY MUTH, L. WILLIAMS, HUGHES, SANTARSIERO, KANE,  
KEARNEY, PHILLIPS-HILL AND FONTANA, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

---

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 16 through 22, 2022, as  
2 "Military Sexual Trauma Survivor Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense's 2021  
4 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military revealed in  
5 stark detail that sexual assault and sexual harassment remain  
6 persistent and distressing problems in our military; and

7 WHEREAS, Service member sexual assault reports increased by  
8 13% in 2021 compared to the 2020 report; and

9 WHEREAS, Shame and stigma create a barrier to reporting  
10 sexual assault; and

11 WHEREAS, On average, only one out of every three sexual  
12 assault survivors come forward to report the assault; and

13 WHEREAS, Even though women make up only 20% of the United  
14 States Armed Forces members, they are the targets of 63% of  
15 sexual assaults; and

16 WHEREAS, Sexual assault in the military is not only a woman's  
17 issue; and

18 WHEREAS, More than 100,000 men have been sexually assaulted

1 in the military in recent decades; and

2 WHEREAS, In today's military, rape culture is an epidemic and  
3 military sexual assault survivors are often forgotten; and

4 WHEREAS, Prior to being assaulted, many military sexual  
5 assault survivors had dreams of serving for 20 or more years in  
6 the United States Armed Services and were happy in their  
7 workplace; and

8 WHEREAS, While some military sexual assault survivors may  
9 choose to stay in the military, the psychological impact of the  
10 assault and resulting trauma can push survivors out of the  
11 service and lead to tremendous difficulty readjusting to their  
12 civilian lives; and

13 WHEREAS, Survivors of military sexual assault often decide  
14 not to report the assault for the reasons of embarrassment, fear  
15 and shame and professional and personal implications; and

16 WHEREAS, The military's culture of duty, teamwork, strength  
17 and accomplishment conflicts with military sexual assault  
18 survivors' needs, resulting in them being stigmatized as weak or  
19 failing their fellow service members; and

20 WHEREAS, The uniqueness of military life causes additional  
21 anxiety to a sexual assault survivor and complicates the  
22 survivor's life, which may result in lack of promotion or  
23 removal from service; and

24 WHEREAS, The personal stories of survivors underscore the  
25 need for meaningful change to provide healing to those affected  
26 by military sexual assault trauma through adequate medical and  
27 mental health services; and

28 WHEREAS, To highlight the epidemic of sexual assault in the  
29 United States Armed Forces, policymakers should initiate an  
30 examination of military culture and military justice at the

1 Statewide level; and

2 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, the Department of Military and  
3 Veterans Affairs, local veterans' centers and United States  
4 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers are able to offer  
5 resources for military sexual assault survivors; and

6 WHEREAS, The Senate must honor the strength, resolve and  
7 perseverance of military sexual assault survivors and work  
8 urgently to end sexual violence in the military throughout this  
9 Commonwealth; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of October 16  
11 through 22, 2022, as "Military Sexual Trauma Survivor Week" in  
12 Pennsylvania.