
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 66 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY MUTH, HUGHES, KANE, FONTANA, BREWSTER, KEARNEY,
STREET, SCHWANK, COSTA, COLLETT, SANTARSIERO AND BARTOLOTTA,
APRIL 16, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 16, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of April 18 through 24, 2021, as "Time to
2 Acknowledge Military Sexual Assault Survivors Week" in
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense's 2018
5 Annual Report on Sexual Assault in the Military revealed that
6 20,500 United States Armed Forces members, comprised of 13,000
7 women and 7,500 men, were victims of military sexual assault;
8 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 women'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 survivors are often forgotten; and

4 WHEREAS, Many military sexual assault survivors, prior to
5 being assaulted, 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 a military sexual assault
18 survivor's 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, United States Navy veterans Lauren DelRicci and
25 Timothy Jones, both from the Pittsburgh area, described their
26 sexual assault experiences in the military that resulted in
27 personal trauma, suffering and their military careers being cut
28 short; and

29 WHEREAS, Their personal stories underscore the need for
30 meaningful change to provide healing to those affected by

1 military sexual assault trauma through adequate medical and
2 mental health services; and

3 WHEREAS, To highlight the epidemic of sexual assault in the
4 United States Armed Forces, policymakers should initiate an
5 examination of military culture and military justice at the
6 Statewide level; and

7 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, the Department of Military and
8 Veterans Affairs, local veterans' centers and United States
9 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers are able to offer
10 resources for military sexual assault survivors; and

11 WHEREAS, The Senate must honor the strength, resolve and
12 perseverance of military sexual assault survivors and work
13 urgently to end sexual violence in the military throughout this
14 Commonwealth; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of April 18
16 through 24, 2021, as "Time to Acknowledge Military Sexual
17 Assault Survivors Week" in Pennsylvania.