

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 452

Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 28, 2016

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. HELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Whereas on average, an individual is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2 minutes, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network;

Whereas nearly 80,000 rapes were reported to law enforcement in 2013, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 5 women (or 18.3 percent) and 1 in 71 men (or 1.4 percent) surveyed in the United States in 2010 experienced a rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives;

Whereas sexual violence is also a burden for many individuals who serve the United States, and the Department of De-

fense estimates that approximately 19,000 members of the United States Armed Forces experienced unwanted sexual contact in fiscal year 2014;

Whereas children and young adults are at significant risk of sexual assault, up to 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under 18 years of age, and up to 80 percent of sexual assault victims are under 30 years of age;

Whereas sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in the United States;

Whereas sexual violence may take many forms, including acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, incest, child sexual abuse, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking;

Whereas in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs of sexual assault, sexual assault has numerous adverse consequences, which can include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide, according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence;

Whereas many sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement agencies, which enables many rapists to evade punishment for their crimes;

Whereas as many as $\frac{2}{3}$ of sexual crimes are committed by individuals who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars of the survivors have healed;

Whereas advances in DNA technology have enabled law enforcement agencies to potentially identify and prosecute the perpetrators in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas prosecution can lead to the incarceration of rapists and prevent those individuals from committing additional crimes;

Whereas national, State, territorial, and tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to—

- (1) increasing public awareness of sexual violence and the prevalence of sexual violence; and
- (2) eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, and non-profit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims and survivors of sexual assault through—

- (1) the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800-656-HOPE and online.rainn.org); and
- (2) more than 1,000 sexual assault service providers across the United States;

Whereas the DoD Safe Helpline, Safe HelpRoom, and Safe Helpline mobile app each provide support and help to members of the Department of Defense community—

- (1) by telephone at 877-995-5247; and
- (2) online at SafeHelpline.org;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect the dream of the people of the United States—

(1) for individuals and organizations to actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence; and

(2) for no sexual assault victim to be unserved or feel that there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April 2016 is recognized as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

3 (A) National Sexual Assault Awareness
4 and Prevention Month provides a special oppor-
5 tunity to educate the people of the United
6 States about sexual violence and to encourage
7 the prevention of sexual assault, improvement
8 in the treatment of survivors of sexual assault,
9 and the prosecution of perpetrators of sexual
10 assault;

11 (B) it is appropriate to properly acknowl-
12 edge survivors of sexual assault and to com-
13 mend the volunteers and professionals who as-
14 sist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

15 (C) national and community organizations
16 and private sector supporters should be recog-
17 nized and applauded for their work in pro-
18 moting awareness about sexual assault, pro-

1 viding information and treatment to survivors
2 of sexual assault, and increasing the number of
3 successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual
4 assault; and

5 (D) public safety, law enforcement, and
6 health professionals should be recognized and
7 applauded for their hard work and innovative
8 strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual as-
9 sault are held accountable; and

10 (2) the Senate supports the goals and ideals of
11 National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention
12 Month.

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