

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 229      Session of  
1989

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INTRODUCED BY MAINE, HAGARTY, BLAUM, MILLER, JAROLIN, LINTON,  
TRICH, RITTER, MORRIS, FREEMAN, McHALE, JADLOWIEC, WASS,  
LASHINGER, COLAIZZO, BILLOW, SCRIMENTI, SCHULER, STABACK,  
GEIST, McNALLY, MURPHY, ARGALL, ITKIN, GODSHALL, PESCI,  
DISTLER, MELIO, VAN HORNE, FOX, BELFANTI, O'BRIEN,  
J. L. WRIGHT, BUNT, WOGAN, LEVDANSKY, PRESSMANN, TANGRETTI,  
STEIGHNER, KUKOVICH, LAUGHLIN, PISTELLA, HERMAN, SAURMAN,  
JOSEPHS, E. Z. TAYLOR, VROON, MICHLOVIC, FAIRCHILD, CARN,  
HUGHES, WOZNIAK, McCALL, WILLIAMS, JOHNSON, RUDY AND CAWLEY,  
NOVEMBER 15, 1989

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, NOVEMBER 15, 1989

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Providing for the appointment of a select committee to study the  
2 need and availability of funding for domestic violence and  
3 rape crisis services in this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Incidents of domestic violence and sexual violence  
5 are not confined to any group or groups of people, but cross all  
6 age, racial, economical, geographical, family structural, gender  
7 and social barriers; and

8 WHEREAS, It is estimated that each year in Pennsylvania over  
9 800,000 households experience domestic violence; and that,  
10 during the course of their lifetime, approximately 1,107,395  
11 Pennsylvania women, children and men will be victims of sexual  
12 assault; and

13 WHEREAS, As a result of the General Assembly's 1988  
14 amendments to the Protection From Abuse Act, Statewide service

1 providers for victims of domestic violence have experienced a  
2 dramatic increase in requests for services from domestic  
3 violence victims seeking protection orders and in the number of  
4 hours devoted to providing these services; and

5 WHEREAS, From fiscal year 1980-1981 through fiscal year 1987-  
6 1988, the number of recipients of domestic violence counseling  
7 services and shelter services increased 457.88% and 546.54%,  
8 respectively, while State funding for programs providing the  
9 services has increased only 189.14%; and

10 WHEREAS, The number of adult victims and child victims served  
11 by rape crisis centers from fiscal year 1984-1985 through fiscal  
12 year 1987-1988 increased 129% and 109%, respectively, while  
13 State funding for rape crisis services has increased only 57.8%;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, It is essential that the current level of services  
16 provided by domestic violence programs and rape crisis centers  
17 be maintained or increased as a result of the rising numbers of  
18 domestic violence and sexual assault incidents in Pennsylvania;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, It is important that, in addition to providing  
21 services to victims of sexual and domestic violence, rape crisis  
22 centers and domestic violence programs continue to offer State-  
23 required prevention education programs to schools and  
24 communities; and

25 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest of this Commonwealth to  
26 provide adequate financial assistance for domestic violence  
27 centers and rape crisis services for the operation of their  
28 respective programs due to the increasing number of incidents of  
29 domestic violence and sexual violence; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives

1 appoint a select committee of nine members, five from the  
2 majority party and four from the minority party, to study the  
3 need and availability of funding for domestic violence and rape  
4 crisis services; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That, in carrying out its duties, the select  
6 committee may exercise all powers permitted to be exercised by  
7 standing committees as provided for the in the Rules of the  
8 House of Representatives; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That the select committee may hold hearings, take  
10 testimony and make its investigations at such places as it deems  
11 necessary in this Commonwealth. Each member of the select  
12 committee shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations  
13 to witnesses appearing before the select committee; and be it  
14 further

15       RESOLVED, That the select committee make a report of its  
16 findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives  
17 within a period of six months.