

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 456 Session of  
2015

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, BREWSTER, KITCHEN, SCHWANK, FONTANA,  
SABATINA, GREENLEAF, TARTAGLIONE, DINNIMAN, COSTA,  
VULAKOVICH, GORDNER, BARTOLOTTA, RAFFERTY, FARNESE,  
HUTCHINSON, MENSCH, BROWNE, KILLION, YUDICHAK, BAKER AND  
WARD, OCTOBER 17, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 17, 2016

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2016 as "Domestic Violence  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior  
4 used to establish power and control over an intimate partner;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often causes emotional harm to  
7 victims, their children, other family members, friends,  
8 neighbors and coworkers; and

9 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects women and men of all  
10 racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic  
11 backgrounds; and

12 WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms, and the victims  
13 of domestic violence are often subjected to physical abuse,  
14 harassment, threats, vandalism, trespassing, burglary, theft and  
15 stalking; and

16 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often escalates over time, causing

1 victims to suffer physical and emotional trauma, anxiety,  
2 stress, sleep deprivation, loss of confidence, fear and, in some  
3 cases, injury and death by suicide or homicide; and

4 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is one of the most chronically  
5 underreported crimes; and

6 WHEREAS, One in every four women and one in every nine men  
7 will experience domestic violence in her or his lifetime; and

8 WHEREAS, Each year, approximately 2.3 million people in the  
9 United States are physically or sexually assaulted by a current  
10 or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend; and

11 WHEREAS, On average, three women are killed by a current or  
12 former intimate partner each day in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against  
14 Domestic Violence, in 2015, there were 146 fatalities associated  
15 with domestic violence; and

16 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
17 reported in 2014 that 20% of teenagers reported that they had  
18 been the victim or perpetrator of physical or sexual abuse; and

19 WHEREAS, The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8  
20 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical  
21 and mental health services; and

22 WHEREAS, Less than 20% of victims who report an injury from  
23 intimate partner violence seek medical treatment following the  
24 injury; and

25 WHEREAS, Victims of domestic violence lose almost 8 million  
26 days of paid work annually as a result of the violence; and

27 WHEREAS, Each year, businesses forfeit about \$100 million in  
28 lost wages, sick leave, absenteeism and nonproductivity; and

29 WHEREAS, Each year, domestic violence programs in  
30 Pennsylvania provide services to approximately 95,000 victims of

1 domestic violence; and

2 WHEREAS, Thirty percent to sixty percent of perpetrators of  
3 intimate partner violence also abuse children in the home; and

4 WHEREAS, Children who witness domestic violence in their  
5 homes are 74% more likely to commit criminal assaults as adults;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, At-risk individuals and families need education  
8 relating to their legal rights, judicial proceedings, advocacy,  
9 counseling and support services, shelter care and crisis  
10 intervention; and

11 WHEREAS, The strength of this Commonwealth relies on healthy,  
12 peaceful families and the safety of its residents, especially  
13 women and children, and this strength must be ensured by  
14 immediate intervention of the State's justice system and other  
15 responsible and appropriate services; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2016  
17 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be  
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
20 the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 3605  
21 Vartan Way, Suite 101, Harrisburg, PA 17110.