

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 29

Session of  
2003

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INTRODUCED BY BEBKO-JONES, BARD, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BISHOP, BROWNE, BUNT, BUXTON, CAPPELLI, CORRIGAN, COY, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, CURRY, DALEY, DALLY, DERMODY, DeWEESE, EACHUS, D. EVANS, J. EVANS, FLEAGLE, GEIST, GOODMAN, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HUTCHINSON, KIRKLAND, LEDERER, LESCOVITZ, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, McILHATTAN, MELIO, PRESTON, FICHTER, FORCIER, GABIG, GILLESPIE, GRUCELA, HARHART, HERMAN, HORSEY, KELLER, LAUGHLIN, LEH, LEWIS, MANN, MCGILL, McNAUGHTON, PIPPY, READSHAW, ROBERTS, ROSS, RUBLEY, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRAVAGLIO, WALKO, WATSON, J. WILLIAMS, WILT, YOUNGBLOOD AND ZUG, JANUARY 30, 2003

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JANUARY 30, 2003

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2003 as "Sexual Assault Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, One in three women and one in six men experience a  
4 sexual assault in their lifetime; and

5 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, an estimated 2,116,918 females  
6 and 987,882 males experience the life-altering trauma of sexual  
7 victimization; and

8 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has  
9 identified sexual violence as an urgent and costly public health  
10 crisis, and the American Medical Association has said that  
11 sexual violence is a silent, violent epidemic growing at  
12 alarming rates and traumatizing the women, men and children of

1 our nation; and

2 WHEREAS, The Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law  
3 enforcement agencies across the nation, including the  
4 Pennsylvania State Police, indicate that sexual violence is the  
5 most underreported crime in America, with only 28.1% of rape and  
6 sexual assault incidents being reported to police; and

7 WHEREAS, Sexual violence consists of a range of unacceptable  
8 behaviors, including rape, incest, molestation, date and  
9 acquaintance rape, statutory rape, marital/partner rape, ritual  
10 abuse, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, indecent sexual  
11 contact, sexual harassment, exhibitionism and voyeurism; and

12 WHEREAS, Victims of sexual violence are more likely to  
13 experience long-term mental health consequences, including  
14 suicide and attempted suicide, eating disorders, substance  
15 abuse, promiscuity, low self-esteem, psychiatric  
16 hospitalizations and posttraumatic stress disorder; therefore be  
17 it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
19 month of April 2003 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in  
20 Pennsylvania, recognizing that it is time to take action against  
21 sexual violence by uniting the efforts of all who work to end  
22 sexual violence and ensuring that victims receive just and  
23 adequate treatment; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
25 citizens to demonstrate their support for those who work to  
26 support victims of sexual violence and to take action for  
27 eliminating sexual crimes in our communities.