
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 674 Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY BEBKO-JONES, GOOD, YOUNGBLOOD, WOJNAROSKI,
SAINATO, LEVDANSKY, J. EVANS, DONATUCCI, DIGIROLAMO, DeWEESE,
LESCOVITZ, LEDERER, LEACH, LAUGHLIN, KIRKLAND, RUBLEY, ROSS,
ROONEY, ROBERTS, REICHLEY, REED, READSHAW, WATERS,
WASHINGTON, WALKO, TRUE, DALEY, CRUZ, CORRIGAN, CAPPELLI,
JOSEPHS, JAMES, HORSEY, PISTELLA, PICKETT, PHILLIPS, PAYNE,
TIGUE, SURRA, STURLA, SCHRODER, MAJOR, MANN, McGEEHAN,
S. MILLER, MUNDY, HARHAI, GINGRICH, GABIG, FRANKEL, FICHTER,
ARMSTRONG, BAKER, BENNINGHOFF, BROWNE, SHANER, PALLONE,
TANGRETTI, SOLOBAY, B. SMITH, SCAVELLO, MANDERINO, McCALL,
McGILL, McILHATTAN, HERMAN, GRUCELA, GEIST, FREEMAN, FORCIER,
FABRIZIO, BARD, BELARDI, BISHOP AND BALDWIN, APRIL 12, 2004

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 12, 2004

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2004 as "Sexual Assault Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

5 WHEREAS, Every two minutes, someone in the United States is
6 sexually assaulted; and

7 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth an estimated 2,166,918 females
8 and 987,882 males experience the life-altering trauma of sexual
9 victimization; and

10 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has
11 identified sexual violence as an urgent and costly public health
12 crisis; and

1 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association has said that
2 sexual violence is a silent, violent epidemic growing at
3 alarming rates and traumatizing the women, men and children of
4 our nation; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice states that
6 during the 1996-1997 school year 5% of all middle schools and 8%
7 of all high schools reported at least one crime of rape or
8 sexual battery to law enforcement; and

9 WHEREAS, The Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law
10 enforcement agencies across the nation, including the
11 Pennsylvania State Police, indicate that sexual violence is the
12 most underreported crime in the United States, with only 28.3%
13 of rape and sexual assault incidents being reported to police;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Sexual violence consists of a range of unacceptable
16 behaviors, including rape, incest, molestation, date and
17 acquaintance rape, statutory rape, marital/partner rape, ritual
18 abuse, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, indecent sexual
19 contact, sexual harassment, exhibitionism and voyeurism; and

20 WHEREAS, Victims of sexual violence are more likely to
21 experience long-term mental health consequences, including
22 suicide and attempted suicide, eating disorders, substance
23 abuse, promiscuity, low self-esteem, psychiatric
24 hospitalizations and posttraumatic stress disorder; therefore be
25 it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
27 month of April 2004 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in
28 Pennsylvania, recognizing that it is time to take action against
29 sexual violence by uniting the efforts of all who work to end
30 sexual violence and ensuring that victims receive just and

1 adequate treatment; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
3 citizens to demonstrate support for all who work on behalf of
4 victims of sexual violence and to take action for eliminating
5 sexual crimes in our communities.