
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 137 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY BEBKO-JONES, BARRAR, BELARDI, BIANCUCCI, BISHOP,
BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CAWLEY, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, CRUZ, DeWEESE,
DIVEN, DONATUCCI, FORCIER, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GABIG, GEIST,
GEORGE, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY,
JAMES, LEACH, LEDERER, ROSS, RUBLEY, MANDERINO, MANN,
MARKOSEK, McCALL, MCGILL, MUSTIO, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PISTELLA,
REICHLEY, ROBERTS, PHILLIPS, YOUNGBLOOD, WHEATLEY, WALKO,
TIGUE, THOMAS, TANGRETTI, SURRA, STURLA, STABACK, B. SMITH,
SHANER, SCAVELLO, SANTONI, SAINATO AND J. EVANS,
MARCH 14, 2005

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 14, 2005

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2005 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

13 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association has said that

1 sexual violence is a silent, violent epidemic growing at
2 alarming rates and traumatizing the women, men and children of
3 our nation; and

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

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

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

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 month of April 2005 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in
23 Pennsylvania, recognizing that it is time to take action against
24 sexual violence by uniting the efforts of all who work to end
25 sexual violence and ensuring that victims receive just and
26 adequate treatment; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
28 citizens to demonstrate support for all who work on behalf of
29 victims of sexual violence and to take action for eliminating
30 sexual crimes in our communities.