
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 147 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, COHEN, B. BOYLE, KILLION, MILLARD,
YOUNGBLOOD, DIGIROLAMO, W. KELLER, V. BROWN, PARKER,
KAVULICH, O'BRIEN, BROWNLEE, BOBACK, BIZZARRO, D. COSTA,
HARKINS, MOLCHANY, DAVIS, ROZZI, HAHN, ROSS, MAHONEY,
SCHLOSSBERG, THOMAS, P. DALEY, FRANKEL, KORTZ, MARSICO,
CALTAGIRONE, DeLUCA, QUINN, ROCK, FABRIZIO, HESS, DENLINGER,
PASHINSKI, WATSON, ROEBUCK, BISHOP, GOODMAN, GINGRICH, CLYMER
AND SWANGER, MARCH 13, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 13, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the founding of America's
2 first rape crisis center, Women Organized Against Rape.

3 WHEREAS, Formally known as Women Organized Against Rape, WOAR
4 was organized in 1973 at the Philadelphia General Hospital as
5 the first rape crisis center in Pennsylvania and the United
6 States; and

7 WHEREAS, For 40 years, WOAR has been a leader in preventing
8 and stopping sexual violence and abuse; and

9 WHEREAS, WOAR was the first organization to partner with
10 medical, criminal justice and law enforcement systems to help
11 women deal with trauma and to ensure that their cases were
12 properly prosecuted; and

13 WHEREAS, Over the last 40 years, WOAR has been a nonprofit
14 organization whose mission has been to eliminate all forms of

1 sexual violence and has advocated for the rights of victims of
2 sexual assault and abuse through a comprehensive array of
3 services for adult and child survivors of sexual assault, their
4 families and communities across Philadelphia; and

5 WHEREAS, WOAR has received numerous awards for their
6 advocacy, quality of service, educational programs and
7 leadership; and

8 WHEREAS, WOAR has developed a Direct Services Department that
9 provides a 24-hour hotline, free individual and group counseling
10 to children and adults who have experienced sexual abuse or
11 sexual assault, counseling in Spanish, hospital and court
12 accompaniment and Latino outreach services; and

13 WHEREAS, WOAR's Education Department offers training on
14 issues of sexual violence and personal safety within schools,
15 social service organizations, community centers and workplaces
16 throughout Philadelphia; and

17 WHEREAS, WOAR has partnered with the University of
18 Pennsylvania, Drexel University, University of the Sciences and
19 Temple University to establish formal campus sexual assault
20 programs; and

21 WHEREAS, WOAR receives funding from various Federal, State
22 and local government agencies, as well as foundations,
23 individual donors and fundraising efforts; and

24 WHEREAS, In conjunction with organizations such as the
25 Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR), WOAR works to
26 prevent sexual assault and support survivors; and

27 WHEREAS, WOAR's most recent accomplishment is the creation
28 and implementation of the Philadelphia Sexual Assault Response
29 Center (PSARC), which is the first of its kind rape-trauma
30 center that offers better services, less wait, personalized care

1 and ensures crisis counseling services; therefore be it
2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize Women
3 Organized Against Rape for their efforts to stop and prevent
4 sexual violence and abuse in all forms and to assist the
5 survivors of such incidents and congratulate WOAR on the 40th
6 anniversary of its founding.