
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 469 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY WASHINGTON, DINNIMAN, STACK, FERLO, GREENLEAF,
BAKER, TEPLITZ, WARD, FONTANA, TARTAGLIONE, WILLIAMS,
ERICKSON, BREWSTER, VULAKOVICH, KASUNIC, GORDNER, SMITH,
SCHWANK, PILEGGI, HUGHES, WOZNIAK, KITCHEN, FARNESE,
McILHINNEY, YUDICHAK, RAFFERTY, COSTA, HUTCHINSON AND
SCARNATI, OCTOBER 7, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 7, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2014 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 that subject
13 victims to physical abuse, harassment, threats, vandalism,
14 trespassing, burglary, theft and stalking; and

15 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often escalates over time, causing
16 victims to suffer physical and emotional trauma, anxiety,

1 stress, sleep deprivation, loss of confidence, fear and, in some
2 cases, injury and death by suicide or homicide; and

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

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

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

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

12 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against
13 Domestic Violence, in 2013, there were 158 fatalities associated
14 with domestic violence, which represents a 10% increase from
15 2012; and

16 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
17 reports that at least 1,455 people died as a result of domestic
18 violence-related incidents between 2000 and 2009, with a nearly
19 50% rise in deaths between 2007 and 2009; and

20 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
21 reported in 2011-2012 that local domestic violence hotlines
22 handled more than 130,000 calls; and

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

26 WHEREAS, Less than 20% of victims who report an injury from
27 intimate partner violence seek medical treatment following the
28 injury; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2014 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 3605 Vartan Way, Suite 101, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Women Against Abuse at 100 South Broad Street, Suite 1431, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19110.