

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 441 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY KILLION, ARGALL, AUMENT, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BLAKE,
BREWSTER, BROOKS, BROWNE, COSTA, DINNIMAN, EICHELBERGER,
FOLMER, FONTANA, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, HUGHES, MARTIN,
McGARRIGLE, MENSCH, RAFFERTY, RESCHENTHALER, SABATINA,
SCAVELLO, SCHWANK, STREET, VULAKOVICH, WARD, WHITE AND
TOMLINSON, OCTOBER 1, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 1, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2018 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 men and women from all
10 racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic
11 backgrounds; and

12 WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms, and the victims
13 are often subjected to abuse, harassment, threats, financial
14 abuse 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 four women and one in seven men will
6 experience domestic violence in his or her lifetime; and

7 WHEREAS, Each year, approximately 2.3 million people are
8 physically or sexually assaulted by a current or former spouse
9 or intimate partner; 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 2017 there were 117 fatalities associated
14 with domestic violence; and

15 WHEREAS, In a 2017 report, the Centers for Disease Control
16 and Prevention found that approximately 10% of high school
17 students reported physical victimization and 10% reported sexual
18 victimization from a dating partner in the 12 months prior; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Less than 20% of victims who report an injury from
23 intimate partner violence seek medical treatment following the
24 injury; and

25 WHEREAS, Victims of domestic violence lose approximately 8
26 million days of paid work annually as a result of the violence;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Each year, businesses forfeit approximately \$100
29 million in lost wages, sick leave, absenteeism and
30 nonproductivity; and

1 WHEREAS, Each year, domestic violence programs in
2 Pennsylvania provide services to nearly 90,000 victims of
3 domestic violence; and

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

6 WHEREAS, More than 15 million children are exposed to
7 domestic violence each year and those exposed in their homes are
8 74% more likely to commit criminal assaults as adults; and

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

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

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2018
19 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
22 the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 3605
23 Vartan Way, Suite 101, Harrisburg, PA 17110.