
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 299 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, DINNIMAN, SABATINA, FONTANA, BAKER,
KILLION, ARGALL, SCHWANK, HUGHES, FARNESE, BLAKE, BARTOLOTTA,
BREWSTER, BROWNE, FOLMER, BOSCOLA, RAFFERTY, STREET, AUMENT,
HUTCHINSON, GREENLEAF, COSTA, MENSCH AND VULAKOVICH,
MARCH 26, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 26, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2018 as "Sexual Assault Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Widespread public awareness is the first step in
4 addressing sexual assault and its prevention; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the National Sexual Violence Resource
6 Center, one in five women and one in seventy-one men will be
7 raped at some point in their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Of those, nearly 80% of women were raped before 25
9 years of age, with 40% experiencing their first rape between the
10 ages of 11 and 17, and 28% of men were first raped before their
11 10th birthday; and

12 WHEREAS, Forty-four percent of women and 23% of men
13 experienced other forms of sexual violence during their lives,
14 including sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact and other
15 noncontact sexual experiences; and

16 WHEREAS, Most victims of sexual assault are acquainted with

1 their assailants; and

2 WHEREAS, Young people experience heightened rates of sexual
3 violence; and

4 WHEREAS, One in four girls and one in six boys will be
5 sexually abused before reaching 18 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, Being the victim of child sexual abuse doubles the
7 likelihood of adult sexual victimization; and

8 WHEREAS, Sexual assault is a significant problem; and

9 WHEREAS, One in five women and one in sixteen men are
10 sexually assaulted during their time in college; and

11 WHEREAS, Sexual assault can have lasting, harmful effects on
12 survivors and their loved ones in our communities; and

13 WHEREAS, To preserve the safety and welfare of our fellow
14 citizens, we must confront harmful attitudes and actions; and

15 WHEREAS, To help the individual and social progress of our
16 fellow citizens, we must support survivors of sexual assault in
17 times of crisis and throughout their recovery; and

18 WHEREAS, To generate a comprehensive response to sexual
19 violence, we must highlight sexual assault prevention
20 initiatives, bolster criminal justice programs and commit to
21 breaking cycles of violence and reducing crime rates in our
22 communities; and

23 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) and a
24 network of 50 rape crisis centers partner with community members
25 to prevent sexual violence throughout this Commonwealth; and

26 WHEREAS, Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and
27 Prevention to operate the National Sexual Violence Resource
28 Center, PCAR develops and provides evidence-based prevention
29 programs, based on the principles of effective prevention; and

30 WHEREAS, The strategies are critical to the health of our

1 major social systems, such as schools, child care agencies,
2 workplaces, athletics, health care, legal systems and others to
3 move upstream and stop sexual violence before it occurs; and

4 WHEREAS, The 2018 Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign is
5 focusing on resources related to campus sexual violence
6 prevention to create a culture on college campuses of prevention
7 and effective, trauma-informed response; and

8 WHEREAS, The campaign theme for 2018, "Embrace Your Voice,"
9 encourages every person to use their voice to speak out against
10 sexual violence and find ways to prevent sexual violence in
11 their roles and communities; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2018
13 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.