
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 398 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY KILLION, BROWNE, ARGALL, ARNOLD, AUMENT, BAKER,
BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, COSTA, FONTANA, GORDNER, IOVINO,
KEARNEY, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, MENSCH, PHILLIPS-HILL, PITTMAN,
SANTARSIERO, SCAVELLO, SCHWANK, STEFANO AND J. WARD,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2020 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 another in an intimate
5 or familial relationship; and

6 WHEREAS, Domestic violence impacts victims, their children,
7 other family members, friends, neighbors and coworkers; and

8 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects individuals from all
9 racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic
10 backgrounds; and

11 WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms, and the victims
12 are often subjected to physical and emotional abuse, harassment,
13 threats, financial abuse and stalking; and

14 WHEREAS, Domestic violence can cause victims to suffer
15 physical and emotional trauma, anxiety, stress and sleep
16 deprivation and has been linked to long-term health issues; and

1 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a chronically underreported
2 crime; and

3 WHEREAS, One in four women and one in seven men will
4 experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against
6 Domestic Violence, there were 112 fatalities associated with
7 domestic violence in 2019; and

8 WHEREAS, In the last 10 years, more than 1,600 people have
9 died from domestic violence-related incidents in Pennsylvania;
10 and

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

14 WHEREAS, Intimate partner violence has an estimated lifetime
15 economic burden of \$156 billion in Pennsylvania; and

16 WHEREAS, Less than 20% of victims who report an injury from
17 intimate partner violence seek medical treatment following the
18 injury; and

19 WHEREAS, Collectively, victims of domestic violence lose
20 approximately 8 million days of paid work annually as a result
21 of violence; and

22 WHEREAS, Each year, domestic violence programs in
23 Pennsylvania provide services to nearly 90,000 victims of
24 domestic violence; and

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

27 WHEREAS, More than 15 million children are exposed to
28 domestic violence each year, and those children are at a greater
29 risk for repeating the cycle of abuse as adults; and

30 WHEREAS, Survivors of domestic violence and their families

1 need education relating to their legal rights, judicial
2 proceedings, advocacy, counseling and support services, shelter
3 care and crisis intervention; and

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

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2020
10 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be
11 it further

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