

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 6 through 12, 2014, as "Sexual  
2 Assault Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania in conjunction with  
3 bringing awareness to the public policy initiatives in  
4 research prevention and reform as it relates to perpetrators  
5 of sexual violence.

6 WHEREAS, Sexual violence involves any sexual act that is  
7 perpetrated against someone's will and consists of rape, incest,  
8 molestation, date and acquaintance rape, statutory rape, marital  
9 or partner rape, ritual abuse, sexual exploitation, forced  
10 prostitution, indecent sexual contact, sexual harassment,  
11 exhibitionism and voyeurism; and

12 WHEREAS, Perpetrators of sexual violence do not necessarily  
13 display behavior and characteristic traits similar to  
14 "traditional" criminal lifestyles, nor do sex offenders  
15 necessarily have criminal backgrounds; and

16 WHEREAS, Most sexual assaults are committed by someone known  
17 to the victim or the victim's family members; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2010, there were 3,569 perpetrators of sexual  
19 violence reported in Pennsylvania; and

1 WHEREAS, Not all perpetrators of sexual violence are adults  
2 but rather an estimated 23% of perpetrators are under 18 years  
3 of age; and

4 WHEREAS, The vast majority of sex offenders are male, and  
5 only a fraction of those who commit sexual assault are convicted  
6 for their crimes; and

7 WHEREAS, Sexual violence impacts individuals in many ways and  
8 can lead to long-term physical and mental health problems; and

9 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Week provides a special  
10 opportunity to educate the people of Pennsylvania about sexual  
11 violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, the  
12 improved treatment of survivors of sexual assault and the  
13 prosecution of perpetrators of sexual assault; and

14 WHEREAS, Raising awareness about societal myths and behaviors  
15 that perpetuate sexual violence and providing information and  
16 prevention strategies are critical to the health and well-being  
17 of all Pennsylvania citizens; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
19 week of April 6 through 12, 2014, as "Sexual Assault Awareness  
20 Week" in Pennsylvania and support public policy initiatives in  
21 research prevention and reform as they relate to perpetrators of  
22 sexual assault.