

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 210 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BELFANTI, BEYER, BOYD, BRENNAN, BURNS, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, DePASQUALE, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HELM, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, KORTZ, MAJOR, MARSICO, McCALL, MELIO, MILLARD, MOUL, MUSTIO, D. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PARKER, PAYNE, PETRI, PICKETT, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW, ROHRER, ROSS, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, STERN, SWANGER, J. TAYLOR, TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, WHITE AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 27, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 27, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 20 through 25, 2009, as "Sexual
2 Assault Awareness and Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The February 2005/March 2006 Teen Dating Abuse
4 Survey conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited and commissioned
5 by Liz Claiborne, Inc., had the following findings:

6 (1) One in three female teens in a dating relationship
7 has feared for her physical safety.

8 (2) Nearly 20% of teens in a serious relationship have
9 said their boyfriend or girlfriend has threatened to hurt
10 himself, herself or a partner if there were a breakup.

11 (3) One in five teens in a serious relationship reports
12 having been hit, slapped or pushed by a partner.

13 (4) More than one in four teens have been in a

relationship where their partners verbally abused them.

(5) Thirteen percent of Hispanic teens have reported that hitting their partner was permissible;

and

WHEREAS, The December 1995 Kaiser Permanente Poll, Children Now, found that 29% of girls in a relationship have said they have been pressured to engage in sexual activity they did not want; and

WHEREAS, An August 2006 report of the American Public Health Association (Interpersonal Violence in the Lives of Urban American Indian and Alaska Native Women: Implications for Health, Mental Health, and Help-Seeking) found that Native-American women experience higher rates of interpersonal violence than any other population group; and

WHEREAS, A 2001 article in the Journal of the American Medical Association (Dating Violence Against Adolescent Girls and Associated Substance Abuse, Unhealthy Weight Control, Sexual Risk Behavior, Pregnancy and Suicidality) reported that violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, who are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide and adult revictimization; and

WHEREAS, Researchers S.L. Feld and M.A. Strauss (Criminology 1989) held that the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to increase if the pattern has been established in adolescence; and

WHEREAS, A June/July 2004 article in Women's Health (Family Violence Prevention Fund & Advocates for Youth) reported that 81% of parents surveyed believe dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is an issue; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
2 week of April 20 through 25, 2009, as "Sexual Assault Awareness
3 and Prevention Month" to raise awareness of sexual abuse in this
4 Commonwealth.