

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 640 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, SCAVELLO, BOBACK, BRENNAN, BROOKS,
DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, EMRICK, EVERETT, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE,
GILLEN, GINGRICH, HAHN, HICKERNELL, KAVULICH, KORTZ, KOTIK,
MAJOR, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL, PICKETT, PYLE, READSHAW,
REESE, ROCK, SAINATO, SANTONI, CULVER, SONNEY, STEPHENS,
STERN, SWANGER, TALLMAN, VULAKOVICH AND WATSON,
MARCH 27, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH
27, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2012 as "Sexual Assault Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Sexual violence consists of a range of unacceptable
4 behaviors, including rape, incest, molestation, date and
5 acquaintance rape, statutory rape, marital or partner rape,
6 ritual abuse, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, indecent
7 sexual contact, sexual harassment, exhibitionism and voyeurism;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, One in five girls and one in six boys will be
10 sexually assaulted by 18 years of age; and

11 WHEREAS, In the United States, it is estimated that more than
12 876,000 adult women and 111,200 adult men each year are
13 subjected to the traumatic experience of being raped; and

14 WHEREAS, Victims of sexual violence are more likely to
15 experience long-term mental health consequences, including

1 suicide and attempted suicide, eating disorders, substance
2 abuse, promiscuity, low self-esteem, psychiatric
3 hospitalizations and post-traumatic stress disorder; and

4 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has
5 identified sexual violence as an urgent and costly public health
6 crisis; and

7 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association has stated that
8 sexual violence is a silent, violent epidemic which is growing
9 at alarming rates and traumatizing the women, men and children
10 of this nation; and

11 WHEREAS, The Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law
12 enforcement agencies across the nation indicate that sexual
13 violence is the most underreported crime in the United States,
14 with only an average of 31% of rape and sexual assault incidents
15 being reported to police; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
17 month of April 2012 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in
18 Pennsylvania and recognize that it is time to take action
19 against sexual violence by uniting the efforts of all who work
20 on behalf of victims of sexual violence to educate individuals
21 to prevent sexual violence and to eliminate sexual crimes in our
22 communities.