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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 686 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, DAVIS, EVERETT,  
FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, HENNESSEY, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, MANN,  
MCGEEHAN, MILLARD, MIRABITO, M. O'BRIEN, READSHAW, SANTONI,  
SONNEY, SWANGER AND TOEPEL, APRIL 25, 2012

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL  
25, 2012

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 28, 2012, as "Take It All Back Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Sexual violence and abuse can involve a range of  
4 unacceptable behaviors, including rape, incest, molestation,  
5 date and acquaintance rape, statutory rape, marital or partner  
6 rape, ritual abuse, adult and child sexual exploitation, forced  
7 prostitution, indecent sexual contact, sexual harassment,  
8 exhibitionism, pornography, Internet-based child sexual abuse,  
9 voyeurism and inappropriate touching; and

10 WHEREAS, One in four girls and one in six boys will become a  
11 sexual assault victim by the age of 18 and 20% to 25% of college  
12 women will experience attempted or completed rape during  
13 college; and

14 WHEREAS, Friends and acquaintances commit between 80% and 90%  
15 of the sexual assaults against women on college campuses; and

16 WHEREAS, Adults commit most sexual abuse incidents against

1 children, with adults comprising 77% of the perpetrators and  
2 juveniles making up 23%, and most child victims of sexual abuse  
3 know a perpetrator before an incident; and

4 WHEREAS, In the United States, more than 800,000 adult women  
5 and 110,000 adult men yearly face the traumatic experience of  
6 rape, while an unknown number survive other forms of sexual  
7 violence and abuse; and

8 WHEREAS, Victims of sexual violence will more than likely  
9 experience long-term mental health consequences, including  
10 suicide and attempted suicide, eating disorders, substance  
11 abuse, promiscuity, low self-esteem, psychiatric  
12 hospitalizations and posttraumatic stress disorder; and

13 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has  
14 identified sexual violence as an urgent and costly public health  
15 crisis, and the American Medical Association has stated that  
16 sexual violence serves as a silent, violent epidemic that grows  
17 at alarming rates and traumatizes women, men and children of  
18 this nation; and

19 WHEREAS, The Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law  
20 enforcement agencies nationwide indicate that sexual violence is  
21 the most underreported crime, with only an average of 31% of  
22 rape and sexual assault incidents being reported to the police;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw  
25 attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has  
26 public health implications for every resident in Pennsylvania;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Residents throughout this Commonwealth can work  
29 together to prevent sexual assault and to support survivors; and

30 WHEREAS, Groups such as WOAR, formerly known as Women

1 Organized Against Rape, and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against  
2 Rape (PCAR) have a history of working to stop sexual violence  
3 and abuse; and

4 WHEREAS, WOAR was organized in Philadelphia in 1971 as the  
5 first rape crisis center in Pennsylvania and the United States  
6 and has worked toward eliminating all forms of sexual violence  
7 and has advocated for the rights of victims of sexual assault  
8 and abuse through a comprehensive array of services for adult  
9 and child survivors of sexual assault, their family members and  
10 communities across Philadelphia; and

11 WHEREAS, PCAR was formed in 1975 and works to eliminate all  
12 forms of sexual violence and to advocate for the rights and  
13 needs of victims of sexual assault by challenging public  
14 attitudes, raising public awareness and effecting critical  
15 changes in public policy, protocols and responses to sexual  
16 violence; and

17 WHEREAS, PCAR and the National Sexual Violence Resource  
18 Center have officially observed April as National Sexual Assault  
19 Awareness Month since 2001 and continue to organize events for  
20 the observance and education of the public about the problems of  
21 sexual violence and abuse and the need for action to stop and  
22 prevent them; and

23 WHEREAS, WOAR has equally raised its voice to inform and spur  
24 the public to action, including through the sponsorship of the  
25 Seventh Annual "Take It All Back" Community Walk along Market  
26 Street in Philadelphia on Saturday, April 28, starting at 11:30  
27 a.m. at Love Park and continuing with speakers and other  
28 activities until 3 p.m. at the Independence Visitor's Center to  
29 raise awareness about sexual violence; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April

1 28, 2012, as "Take It All Back Day" in Pennsylvania and urge all  
2 its members and all residents of this Commonwealth to join  
3 together with groups such as WOAR and PCAR in events such as the  
4 "Take It All Back" Community Walk and their efforts during  
5 National Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April and throughout  
6 the year to work on behalf of victims of sexual violence to  
7 educate individuals in preventing sexual violence and eliminate  
8 sexual crimes in our communities; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize WOAR  
10 and PCAR for their efforts to stop and prevent sexual violence  
11 and abuse in all forms and to assist the survivors of such  
12 incidents and honor both groups for events such as the "Take It  
13 All Back" Community Walk on April 28 that will educate and  
14 inform the public about such incidents and help support  
15 survivors of such incidents.