

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 81 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY B. BOYLE, MOLCHANY, MILLARD, BISHOP, GALLOWAY, DAVIS, SCAVELLO, YOUNGBLOOD, K. BOYLE, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLOSSBERG, COHEN, KORTZ, KAVULICH, O'BRIEN, CONKLIN, SANTARSIERO, PARKER, MAHONEY, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, GINGRICH, HARHAI, P. DALEY, BRIGGS, FRANKEL, HARKINS, DELUCA AND ROZZI, FEBRUARY 11, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to pass and the
 2 President of the United States to sign the Violence Against
 3 Women Act reauthorization legislation and to reaffirm our
 4 commitment to helping victims of violent crimes.

5 WHEREAS, Domestic violence and sexual assault are pervasive
 6 crimes directly affecting one in four women and touching the
 7 lives of everyone in the community; and

8 WHEREAS, The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) and
 9 VAWA reauthorization and enhancement under the Violence Against
 10 Women Act of 2000 and 2005 have proven instrumental in building
 11 increasing awareness that domestic violence is a crime that
 12 occurs in every community; and

13 WHEREAS, Reauthorization in 2000 improved the foundation
 14 established by VAWA in 1994 by creating a much-needed legal
 15 assistance program for victims and expanded the definition of
 16 "crime" to include dating violence and stalking; and

17 WHEREAS, Reauthorization in 2005 created new programs to meet

1 the emerging needs of communities working to prevent violence;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The VAWA of 2005 expired in 2011 and has yet to
4 receive authorization by Congress; and

5 WHEREAS, VAWA has made immeasurable contributions in
6 communities across the country in providing programs, services
7 and protection for victims of domestic violence and sexual
8 assault and by raising attention to services and interventions
9 that can help battered women, their children and other victims
10 of violent crimes; and

11 WHEREAS, VAWA has significantly improved the response of the
12 criminal justice system to victims of domestic violence and
13 sexual assault through increased training for law enforcement
14 personnel and officers of the court; and

15 WHEREAS, VAWA has helped victims of violent crimes rebuild
16 their lives while encouraging community responsibility for
17 prevention; and

18 WHEREAS, VAWA continues to further the safety and stability
19 of the lives of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence,
20 sexual assault and stalking in this Commonwealth and throughout
21 the nation; and

22 WHEREAS, Without the critical programs and community services
23 that are made possible under VAWA, victims of domestic violence
24 and sexual assault may be less likely to seek the professional
25 counseling and assistance services they need; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives memorialize the
27 Congress of the United States to pass and the President of the
28 United States to sign the Violence Against Women Act and to
29 reaffirm our commitment to helping victims of violent crimes;
30 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
2 the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of
3 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
4 Pennsylvania.