
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 212 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY WASHINGTON, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FERLO, ERICKSON,
BREWSTER, GREENLEAF, BLAKE, BAKER, KASUNIC, KITCHEN, STACK,
SMITH, TEPLITZ, SCHWANK, BROWNE, FONTANA, COSTA, PILEGGI,
GORDNER, VULAKOVICH, YUDICHAK, RAFFERTY, ALLOWAY, SOLOBAY,
MENSCH, BRUBAKER, WILLIAMS, HUGHES AND TARTAGLIONE,
OCTOBER 1, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 1, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2013 as "Domestic Violence
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior
4 used to establish power and control over an intimate partner;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often causes emotional harm to
7 victims, their children, other family members, friends,
8 neighbors and coworkers; and

9 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects women and men of all
10 racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic
11 backgrounds; and

12 WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms, the victims of
13 which are often subjected to physical abuse, harassment,
14 threats, vandalism, trespassing, burglary, theft and stalking;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often escalates over time, causing

1 victims to suffer physical and emotional trauma, anxiety,
2 stress, sleep deprivation, loss of confidence, fear and, in some
3 cases, injury and death by suicide or homicide; and

4 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is one of the most chronically
5 underreported crimes; and

6 WHEREAS, One in every four women and one in every nine men
7 will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes; and

8 WHEREAS, Approximately 2.3 million people each year in the
9 United States are physically or sexually assaulted by a current
10 or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend; and

11 WHEREAS, On average, three women are killed by a current or
12 former intimate partner each day in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against
14 Domestic Violence, in 2012, there were 141 fatalities associated
15 with domestic violence; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's network of domestic violence shelters
17 and programs had to turn away more than 5,000 requests for
18 shelter in 2011-2012 because of lack of capacity; and

19 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence
20 reported in 2011-2012 that local domestic violence hotlines
21 handled more than 130,000 calls; and

22 WHEREAS, The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8
23 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical
24 and mental health services; and

25 WHEREAS, Less than 20% of victims who report an injury from
26 intimate partner violence seek medical treatment following the
27 injury; and

28 WHEREAS, Victims of domestic violence lose almost 8 million
29 days of paid work annually as a result of the violence; and

30 WHEREAS, Each year, businesses forfeit about \$100 million in

1 lost wages, sick leave, absenteeism and nonproductivity; and
2 WHEREAS, Each year, domestic violence programs in
3 Pennsylvania provide services to approximately 95,000 victims of
4 domestic violence; and

5 WHEREAS, Thirty percent to 60% of perpetrators of intimate
6 partner violence also abuse children in the home; and

7 WHEREAS, Children who witness domestic violence in their
8 homes are 74% more likely to commit criminal assaults as adults;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, At-risk individuals and families need education
11 relating to their legal rights, judicial proceedings, advocacy,
12 counseling and support services, shelter care and crisis
13 intervention; and

14 WHEREAS, The strength of the Commonwealth relies on healthy,
15 peaceful families and the safety of its citizens, especially
16 women and children, and this strength must be ensured by
17 immediate intervention of the State's justice system and other
18 responsible and appropriate services; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2013
20 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be
21 it further

22 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
23 the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 3605
24 Vartan Way, Suite 101, Harrisburg, PA 17110 and Women Against
25 Abuse at 100 South Broad Street, Suite 1431, Philadelphia, PA
26 19110.