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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 263 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, FRANKEL, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, LONGIETTI,  
KIM, BISHOP, MILLARD, KILLION, YOUNGBLOOD, O'BRIEN,  
C. PARKER, McNEILL, McCARTER, DIGIROLAMO, BROWNLEE, KINSEY,  
READSHAW, SCHWEYER, WATSON, V. BROWN, GOODMAN, SCHREIBER,  
THOMAS, KAVULICH, GIBBONS, PAYNE, ROSS, MAHONEY, FARINA,  
GINGRICH, KIRKLAND, MAJOR AND D. COSTA, APRIL 20, 2015

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 20, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 25, 2015, 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  
12 college 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

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

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

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

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

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

25       WHEREAS, April serves as "National Sexual Assault Awareness  
26 Month," which is intended to draw attention to the fact that  
27 sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications  
28 for every resident in Pennsylvania; and

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

1       WHEREAS, Groups such as WOAR, formerly known as Women  
2 Organized Against Rape, and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against  
3 Rape (PCAR) have a history of working to stop sexual violence  
4 and abuse; and

5       WHEREAS, WOAR was organized in Philadelphia in 1971 and  
6 incorporated in 1973 as the first rape crisis center in  
7 Pennsylvania and in the United States and has worked toward  
8 eliminating all forms of sexual violence and advocated for the  
9 rights of victims of sexual assault and abuse through a  
10 comprehensive array of services for adult and child survivors of  
11 sexual assault, their family members and communities across  
12 Philadelphia; and

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

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

25       WHEREAS, WOAR has raised its voice to inform and spur the  
26 public to action, through the sponsorship of the 10th annual  
27 "Take It All Back" Community Walk along Market Street in  
28 Philadelphia on Saturday, April 25, 2015, starting at 11:30 a.m.  
29 at Love Park and continuing with speakers and other activities  
30 until 3 p.m. at the Independence Visitor Center, to raise

1 awareness about sexual violence; therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate  
3 April 25, 2015, as "Take It All Back Day" in Pennsylvania and  
4 urge all its members and all residents of this Commonwealth to  
5 join together with groups such as WOAR and PCAR in events such  
6 as the "Take It All Back" Community Walk and their efforts  
7 during "National Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in April and  
8 throughout the year to work on behalf of victims of sexual  
9 violence to educate individuals in preventing sexual violence  
10 and eliminate sexual crimes in our community; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize WOAR  
12 and PCAR and other similar groups for their efforts to stop and  
13 prevent sexual violence and abuse in all forms and to assist the  
14 survivors of such incidents and honor both groups and others for  
15 events such as the "Take It All Back" Community Walk on  
16 April 25, 2015, that will educate and inform the public about  
17 such incidents and help support survivors of such incidents.