
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 263 Session of
2015

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

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

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.