

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 793 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, DIGIROLAMO, SIMS, CORBIN, YOUNGBLOOD, KIM, HENNESSEY, VEREB, KIRKLAND, ROZZI, LONGIETTI, GODSHALL, WATSON, DUSH, SONNEY, KOTIK, SCHREIBER, FRANKEL, READSHAW, MILLARD, V. BROWN, O'BRIEN, D. COSTA, SCHLOSSBERG, PASHINSKI, MURT, BULLOCK, DAVIS, HEFFLEY, BIZZARRO, CALTAGIRONE, TOEPEL, NEILSON, MATZIE, McNEILL, ROSS, WHEELAND, OBERLANDER, GOODMAN, KINSEY, MAJOR, PHILLIPS-HILL, MARSICO, BRADFORD, BENNINGHOFF, GINGRICH AND FARINA, APRIL 8, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 8, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 16, 2016, 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 18 years of age, and 20% to 25% of
12 college women will experience attempted rape or rape during
13 their college years; and

14 WHEREAS, Friends and acquaintances commit between 80% and 90%

1 of the sexual assaults against women on college campuses; and

2 WHEREAS, Adults commit most sexual abuse incidents against
3 children, with adults comprising two-thirds of the perpetrators
4 and juveniles making up one-third, and most child victims of
5 sexual abuse know a perpetrator before an incident; and

6 WHEREAS, In the United States, more than 250,000 individuals
7 face the traumatic experience of rape each year while an unknown
8 number of individuals survive other forms of sexual violence and
9 abuse; and

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, Residents throughout this Commonwealth can work

1 together to prevent sexual assault and to support survivors; and

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, WOAR has raised its voice to inform and spur the
27 public to action, through the sponsorship of the 11th annual
28 Take It All Back Community Walk along Market Street in
29 Philadelphia on Saturday, April 16, 2016, starting at 10 a.m. at
30 Dilworth Park and continuing with speakers and other activities

1 until 2 p.m. at the Independence Visitor Center, to raise
2 awareness about sexual violence; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
4 April 16, 2016, as "Take It All Back Day" in Pennsylvania and
5 urge all its members and all residents of this Commonwealth to
6 join together with groups such as WOAR and PCAR in events such
7 as the Take It All Back Community Walk and their efforts during
8 "National Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in April and
9 throughout the year to work on behalf of victims of sexual
10 violence to educate individuals in preventing sexual violence
11 and eliminate sexual crimes in our community; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize WOAR
13 and PCAR and other similar groups for their efforts to stop and
14 prevent sexual violence and abuse in all forms and to assist the
15 survivors of such incidents; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor WOAR and
17 PCAR and others for events such as the Take It All Back
18 Community Walk on April 16, 2016, that will educate and inform
19 the public about such incidents and help support survivors of
20 such incidents.