
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 85 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY McCLINTON, KIRKLAND, HENNESSEY, THOMAS, T. DAVIS,
MILLARD, KORTZ, SONNEY, BURNS, RYAN, HILL-EVANS, BIZZARRO,
MURT, BERNSTINE, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLOSSBERG, ROTHMAN,
LONGIETTI, STURLA, HOHENSTEIN, OBERLANDER, ISAACSON, BROWN,
MACKENZIE, READSHAW, DIGIROLAMO, FREEMAN, DEASY, NEILSON,
BURGOS, MARKOSEK, SIMS, BULLOCK, SCHWEYER AND KINSEY,
FEBRUARY 12, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 12, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of February 2019 as "Teen Dating Violence
2 Awareness and Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence is widespread, affecting
4 individuals, families and school communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence includes physical, emotional
6 and sexual assault as well as harassment via texting, e-mail or
7 instant messaging; and

8 WHEREAS, On average, violent behavior among young people
9 begins between 12 and 18 years of age; and

10 WHEREAS, A recent National Youth Risk Behavior Survey has
11 reported that, among students who dated or went out with someone
12 in the past year, 8% of high school students experienced
13 physical dating violence and nearly 7% of high school students
14 experienced sexual dating violence; and

15 WHEREAS, Female high school students are three times more

1 likely than male students to be victims of sexual dating
2 violence; and

3 WHEREAS, Female college students and women between 16 and 24
4 years of age have the highest per capita rate of intimate
5 partner violence; and

6 WHEREAS, Teen dating violence and abuse can have long-term
7 effects on individuals and families; and

8 WHEREAS, As a public health issue, teen dating violence and
9 abuse affects government programs; and

10 WHEREAS, Individuals involved in violent relationships have
11 higher risks for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual
12 behavior, further domestic violence and suicide; and

13 WHEREAS, Most young people never report instances of violence
14 or abuse, making it important that parents know the warning
15 signs; and

16 WHEREAS, Checking cell phones, e-mails or social networks
17 without permission, exhibiting extreme jealousy, insecurity or
18 possessiveness, being isolated from family and friends and
19 telling someone what they can and cannot do are common warning
20 signs; and

21 WHEREAS, National hotlines, cell phone apps and other
22 educational resources inform young men and women and parents
23 about teen dating violence and abuse; and

24 WHEREAS, RapidSOS Haven is an emergency communication app
25 that enables a discreet 911 alert and provides a GPS location
26 with the tap of a button; and

27 WHEREAS, Seek Then Speak is a mobile app that offers help and
28 information to survivors of sexual assault in 30 different
29 languages; and

30 WHEREAS, The Love is Not Abuse iPhone app is an educational

1 resource for parents to learn about teen dating violence and
2 abuse; and

3 WHEREAS, Organizations that provide direct services include
4 the National Teen Dating Abuse 24-hour Helpline and Break the
5 Cycle, which support young people in building healthy
6 relationships and creating a culture without abuse; and

7 WHEREAS, To prevent the serious personal and social effects
8 of teen dating violence and abuse, residents of this
9 Commonwealth must raise awareness and end the silence
10 surrounding this significant public health issue; therefore be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
13 month of February 2019 as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and
14 Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.