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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 257 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, BARTOLOTTA, BOSCOLA, CAPPELLETTI,  
COLLETT, COMITTA, MUTH, SCHWANK, L. WILLIAMS, STREET, HUGHES,  
KANE, VOGEL, BROWNE, KEARNEY, SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, MENSCH,  
GORDNER, COSTA, BREWSTER AND CORMAN, APRIL 4, 2022

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 4, 2022

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2022 as "Sexual Assault Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault  
4 Awareness Month to call attention to the fact that sexual  
5 violence is widespread and impacts every community; and

6 WHEREAS, April 2022 marks the 21st anniversary of the  
7 designation of "Sexual Assault Awareness Month"; and

8 WHEREAS, Rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment have a  
9 deep physical and emotional trauma on those who have experienced  
10 it; and

11 WHEREAS, The frequency of rape in the United States occurs  
12 with more prevalence than the public realizes, as one in five  
13 women and one in sixty-seven men have been raped in the United  
14 States; and

15 WHEREAS, On postsecondary campuses, one in five women and one  
16 in sixteen men are sexually assaulted at some point in their  
17 educational career; and

1       WHEREAS, Young people experience heightened rates of child  
2 sexual abuse as one in six boys and one in four girls experience  
3 sexual assault before the age of eighteen; and

4       WHEREAS, Lesbian and bisexual women may be up to three times  
5 as likely as heterosexual women to report having been sexually  
6 assaulted during their lifetime; and

7       WHEREAS, Gay men may be up to 15 times as likely as  
8 heterosexual men to report having been sexually assaulted during  
9 their lifetime; and

10       WHEREAS, More than 90% of individuals with a developmental  
11 delay or disability will be sexually assaulted at least once in  
12 their lifetime; and

13       WHEREAS, Twenty-seven percent of all sexual assault  
14 victimizations for adults and children end in arrest; and

15       WHEREAS, Communities can support survivors by believing their  
16 story, showing respect and championing their individual support  
17 networks; and

18       WHEREAS, Individuals speaking out against inappropriate  
19 jokes, offensive gestures, harmful attitudes and unwanted  
20 actions make a positive impact toward ending sexual harassment,  
21 abuse and assault; and

22       WHEREAS, Consent and boundaries can be violated online in a  
23 number of ways; and

24       WHEREAS, Communities can work together to make their  
25 communities safer by providing prevention education and  
26 increasing public awareness to avoid future harm from sexual  
27 violence; therefore be it

28       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2022  
29 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
30 further

1       RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the 21st anniversary of  
2 "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" to empower more survivors and  
3 their loved ones on their journey to help, hope and heal; and be  
4 it further

5       RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage communities to understand  
6 their role in ending sexual violence in Pennsylvania and the  
7 United States; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage communities to commit to  
9 make a difference to ensure that online platforms are safe and  
10 respectful for everyone by practicing consent, keeping kids safe  
11 and supporting survivors.