

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention
2 Month.

3 WHEREAS, Kentucky has a higher rate of sexual violence than the national
4 average; this fact must be brought into the public focus, because sexual violence cannot
5 be prevented until it is openly recognized and addressed; and

6 WHEREAS, every Kentuckian is directly or indirectly affected and impacted by
7 sexual violence, harm, and assault; and

8 WHEREAS, children are subjected to sexual harm at alarming rates, including
9 commercial sexual exploitation or human trafficking; and

10 WHEREAS, child victims of human trafficking are more likely to be labeled as
11 "runaways" or "status offenders" than identified as victims of extreme sexual abuse; and

12 WHEREAS, emotional and physical scars resulting from sexual harm and human
13 trafficking are severe and long-lasting; and

14 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the strength, courage, and challenges faced
15 by victims and survivors of sexual harm as well as their families and friends, and to
16 acknowledge that not all victims of sexual harm survive at the time of assault or survive
17 the horrific long-term trauma that often occurs in the wake of sexual violence; and

18 WHEREAS, a coalition of rape crisis centers, known as the Kentucky Association
19 of Sexual Assault Programs, was formed 29 years ago to directly confront sexual harm in
20 partnership with law enforcement agencies, churches, health care providers, military
21 officials, juvenile justice professionals, school systems, and other helping professionals
22 from Kentucky's diverse communities; and

23 WHEREAS, last year, Kentucky's regional rape crisis centers responded to well
24 over 3,400 crisis calls, provided more than 15,000 counseling sessions, performed over
25 4,100 advocacy services, and provided over 3,000 educational programs reaching nearly
26 97,000 Kentuckians; and

27 WHEREAS, Kentucky's regional rape crisis centers are working with allies

1 throughout the Commonwealth to prevent sexual harm by empowering Kentuckians to
2 collaborate and act to prevent sexual harm; and

3 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the
4 individuals involved in these efforts, to applaud their commitment, and to increase public
5 awareness of this significant problem;

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

7 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
8 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

9 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives hereby recognizes April as Sexual
10 Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in Kentucky and applauds Kentucky's 13
11 regional rape crisis centers for their decades of dedicated efforts to assist victims and for
12 their efforts to raise awareness of sexual assault, abuse, and harm.

13 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
14 honor of Kentucky's 13 regional rape crisis centers and survivors throughout the
15 Commonwealth.

16 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
17 copy of this Resolution to Ms. Eileen Recktenwald, Executive Director, Kentucky
18 Association of Sexual Assault Programs, P.O. Box 4028, Frankfort, Kentucky 40604.