

1           A RESOLUTION recognizing October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness  
2 Month in Kentucky.

3           WHEREAS, Kentuckians deserve to live in a Commonwealth where all individuals,  
4 families, and communities have the freedom and resources to live in safety and thrive;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, domestic violence and dating violence not only severely impact the  
7 lives of victims, but also result in an economic cost to communities over victims'  
8 lifetimes of approximately \$3.6 trillion, arising from medical services related to domestic  
9 and dating violence, lost productivity and wages, utilization of the criminal justice  
10 system, expenses, and other costs; and

11           WHEREAS, approximately one in five homicides occur at the hands of an intimate  
12 partner, and over one-half of female homicide victims in the United States are killed by a  
13 current or former male intimate partner; and

14           WHEREAS, the Kentucky Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center reported 27  
15 Kentuckians lost their lives to domestic violence in 2022, with an additional 27 charges  
16 of attempted homicide arising from domestic violence being filed in Kentucky courts;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, over the past five years, Kentucky's 15 state-funded domestic violence  
19 shelter programs have housed over 10,000 adults and over 6,000 children and provided  
20 nonresidential services to an additional 72,000 Kentuckians; and

21           WHEREAS, domestic and dating violence is motivated by power and control and is  
22 perpetuated by a complex range of abuse tactics, including but not limited to physical,  
23 verbal, emotional, and financial abuse; stalking and intimidation; and sabotage of career  
24 and education; and

25           WHEREAS, these abuse tactics lead to housing and job instability, homelessness,  
26 negative impacts on workforce participation, serious health issues, high medical debt,  
27 poor credit ratings arising from financial exploitation, and additional challenges that keep

1 survivors of domestic violence and dating violence from being able to meet their basic  
2 needs and the needs of their children; and

3 WHEREAS, children exposed to domestic violence can experience long-term  
4 consequences, including difficulty at school, substance abuse, behavioral problems in  
5 adolescence, and serious adult health problems; and

6 WHEREAS, the mental, emotional, physical, and financial effects of domestic and  
7 dating violence impact our state and local systems, communities, families, individuals,  
8 and children; and

9 WHEREAS, the root causes and prevalence of domestic and dating violence  
10 throughout the Commonwealth must be brought into the public focus; and

11 WHEREAS, domestic and dating violence cannot be prevented until they are  
12 openly recognized and addressed; and

13 WHEREAS, the Kentucky Senate recognizes the vital role that all Kentuckians can  
14 play in preventing, and one day ending, domestic violence and dating violence;

15 NOW, THEREFORE,

16 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
17 *Kentucky:*

18 ➔Section 1. The Senate does hereby recognize October 2024 as Domestic  
19 Violence Awareness Month in Kentucky.

20 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
21 Resolution to Senator Whitney Westerfield.