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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 345 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY CAPPELLETTI, FONTANA, BARTOLOTTA, SCHWANK, HUGHES,  
TARTAGLIONE, STREET, COLLETT, ARGALL, HAYWOOD, CULVER,  
BREWSTER, KEARNEY AND SANTARSIERO, OCTOBER 1, 2024

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 1, 2024

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2024 as "Domestic Violence  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior  
4 used to establish power and control over another in an intimate  
5 or familial relationship; and

6 WHEREAS, Reports have indicated that domestic violence has  
7 been on the rise since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Domestic violence impacts victims, their children,  
10 other family members, friends, neighbors and coworkers; and

11 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects individuals from all  
12 racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic  
13 backgrounds; and

14 WHEREAS, Domestic violence has a disproportionate impact in  
15 communities most affected by trauma exposure, structural racism  
16 and other health disparities; and

17 WHEREAS, Barriers to accessing services increase the risk for

1 undocumented people, people with disabilities, children, members  
2 of BIPOC communities who feel unsafe interacting with law  
3 enforcement and LGBTQ people, particularly members of the trans  
4 community, who face difficulties accessing gender-appropriate  
5 shelter services; and

6 WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms, and the victims  
7 are often subjected to physical and emotional abuse, harassment,  
8 threats, financial abuse and stalking; and

9 WHEREAS, Domestic violence can cause victims to suffer  
10 physical and emotional trauma, anxiety, stress and sleep  
11 deprivation and has been linked to long-term health issues; and

12 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a chronically under reported  
13 crime; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the National Coalition Against Domestic  
15 Violence, 37.1% of Pennsylvania women and 30.4% of Pennsylvania  
16 men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate  
17 partner sexual violence or intimate partner stalking in their  
18 lifetimes; and

19 WHEREAS, One in four women and one in seven men will  
20 experience severe physical violence by an intimate partner; and

21 WHEREAS, In the last 10 years, more than 1,600 people have  
22 died from domestic-violence-related incidents in Pennsylvania;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Less than 20% of victims who report an injury from  
25 intimate partner violence seek medical treatment following the  
26 injury; and

27 WHEREAS, Each year, domestic violence programs in  
28 Pennsylvania provide services to nearly 90,000 victims of  
29 domestic violence; and

30 WHEREAS, An estimated 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate

1 partner violence also abuse children in the home; and

2 WHEREAS, More than 15 million children are exposed to  
3 domestic violence each year, and those children are at a greater  
4 risk for repeating the cycle of abuse as adults; and

5 WHEREAS, One such way to help is by taking the Men's  
6 Challenge Pledge, which states "I pledge not to participate in,  
7 approve of, or remain silent about violence. I pledge to be an  
8 active bystander who will speak out about violence against women  
9 and girls. I will encourage all men to work together with Center  
10 for Victims and use our collective voices and resources to end  
11 all forms of violence"; and

12 WHEREAS, Survivors of domestic violence and their families  
13 need education relating to their legal rights, judicial  
14 proceedings, advocacy, counseling and support services, shelter  
15 care and crisis intervention; and

16 WHEREAS, The strength of this Commonwealth relies on healthy,  
17 peaceful families and the safety of its residents, especially  
18 women and children, and this strength must be ensured by  
19 immediate intervention of the Commonwealth's justice system and  
20 other responsible and appropriate services; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2024  
22 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be  
23 it further

24 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
25 Laurel House, P.O. Box 764, Norristown, PA 19404; and be it  
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
28 Domestic Abuse Project, 14 West Second Street, Media, PA 19063.