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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 235 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY KILLION, BROWNE, ARGALL, AUMENT, BAKER,  
BARTOLOTTA, BLAKE, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, COSTA, DINNIMAN,  
DISANTO, FARNESE, FONTANA, GORDNER, HUGHES, HUTCHINSON,  
KEARNEY, MARTIN, MASTRIANO, MENSCH, MUTH, PITTMAN,  
SANTARSIERO, SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, VOGEL, J. WARD, K. WARD  
AND YUDICHAK, OCTOBER 21, 2019

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 21, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2019 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, Domestic violence impacts victims, their children,  
7 other family members, friends, neighbors and coworkers; and

8 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects individuals from all  
9 racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic  
10 backgrounds; and

11 WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms, and the victims  
12 are often subjected to physical and emotional abuse, harassment,  
13 threats, financial abuse and stalking; and

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

1       WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a chronically underreported  
2 crime; and

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

5       WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against  
6 Domestic Violence, there were 122 fatalities associated with  
7 domestic violence in 2018; and

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

11       WHEREAS, The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8  
12 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical  
13 and mental health services; and

14       WHEREAS, Intimate partner violence has an estimated lifetime  
15 economic burden of \$156 billion in Pennsylvania; and

16       WHEREAS, Less than 20% of victims who report an injury from  
17 intimate partner violence seek medical treatment following the  
18 injury; and

19       WHEREAS, Collectively, victims of domestic violence lose  
20 approximately 8 million days of paid work annually as a result  
21 of violence; and

22       WHEREAS, Each year, domestic violence programs in  
23 Pennsylvania provide services to nearly 90,000 victims of  
24 domestic violence; and

25       WHEREAS, Thirty percent to sixty percent of perpetrators of  
26 intimate partner violence also abuse children in the home; and

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

30       WHEREAS, Survivors of domestic violence and their families

1 need education relating to their legal rights, judicial  
2 proceedings, advocacy, counseling and support services, shelter  
3 care and crisis intervention; and

4 WHEREAS, The strength of this Commonwealth relies on healthy,  
5 peaceful families and the safety of its residents, especially  
6 women and children, and this strength must be ensured by  
7 immediate intervention of the Commonwealth's justice system and  
8 other responsible and appropriate services; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2019  
10 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be  
11 it further

12 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
13 the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 3605  
14 Vartan Way, Suite 101, Harrisburg, PA 17110.