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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 80 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, PHILLIPS-HILL, MUTH,  
BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, MARTIN, FARNESE, SANTARSIERO, COLLETT,  
K. WARD, J. WARD, FOLMER, SABATINA, BROWNE, SCHWANK, KILLION  
AND HUGHES, APRIL 9, 2019

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 9, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2019 as "Sexual Assault Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Widespread public awareness is the first step in  
4 addressing sexual assault and its prevention; and

5 WHEREAS, According to the National Sexual Violence Resource  
6 Center, one in five women and one in seventy-one men will be  
7 raped at some point in their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Of those, nearly 80% of women were raped before 25  
9 years of age, with 40% experiencing their first rape between the  
10 ages of 11 and 17, and 28% of men were first raped before their  
11 10th birthday; and

12 WHEREAS, Forty-four percent of women and 23% of men  
13 experienced other forms of sexual violence during their lives,  
14 including sexual coercion, unwanted sexual contact and other  
15 noncontact sexual experiences; and

16 WHEREAS, Most victims of sexual assault are acquainted with  
17 their assailants; and

1       WHEREAS, Young people experience heightened rates of sexual  
2 violence; and

3       WHEREAS, One in four girls and one in six boys will be  
4 sexually abused before reaching 18 years of age; and

5       WHEREAS, Being the victim of child sexual abuse doubles the  
6 likelihood of adult sexual victimization; and

7       WHEREAS, Sexual assault is a significant problem; and

8       WHEREAS, One in five women and one in sixteen men are  
9 sexually assaulted during their time in college; and

10       WHEREAS, Sexual assault can have lasting, harmful effects on  
11 survivors and their loved ones in our communities; and

12       WHEREAS, To preserve the safety and welfare of our fellow  
13 citizens, we must confront harmful attitudes and actions; and

14       WHEREAS, To help the individual and social progress of our  
15 fellow citizens, we must support survivors of sexual assault in  
16 times of crisis and throughout their recovery; and

17       WHEREAS, To generate a comprehensive response to sexual  
18 violence, we must highlight sexual assault prevention  
19 initiatives, bolster criminal justice programs and commit to  
20 breaking cycles of violence and reducing crime rates in our  
21 communities; and

22       WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) and a  
23 network of 50 rape crisis centers partner with community members  
24 to prevent sexual violence throughout this Commonwealth; and

25       WHEREAS, Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and  
26 Prevention to operate the National Sexual Violence Resource  
27 Center, PCAR develops and provides evidence-based prevention  
28 programs, based on the principles of effective prevention; and

29       WHEREAS, The strategies are critical to the health of our  
30 major social systems, such as schools, child care agencies,

1 workplaces, athletics, health care, legal systems and others to  
2 move upstream and stop sexual violence before it occurs; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2019 Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign is  
4 focusing on resources related to consent; and

5 WHEREAS, The campaign theme for 2019, "I Ask," champions the  
6 message that asking for consent is a healthy, normal and  
7 necessary part of everyday interactions; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2019  
9 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.