
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 221 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, DELOZIER, KINSEY, M. JONES, VITALI,
FLICK, OBERLANDER, KHAN, SCHLOSSBERG, HARKINS, GIRAL, MADDEN,
HANBIDGE, DONAHUE, SAPPEY, PICKETT, SANCHEZ, BOROWSKI,
KRUEGER, PARKER, DELLOSO, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, HADDOCK, CIRESI,
ROZZI, CONKLIN AND BELLMON, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2023 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 an intimate partner;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often causes emotional harm to
7 victims, their children, other family members, friends,
8 neighbors and coworkers; and

9 WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects individuals from all
10 racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic
11 backgrounds and takes many forms; and

12 WHEREAS, Assault, harassment, threats, vandalism,
13 trespassing, burglary, theft and stalking may occur; and

14 WHEREAS, Abusive behaviors often escalate, causing physical
15 and emotional trauma, anxiety, stress, sleep deprivation, loss
16 of confidence, fear and, in some cases, injury and death by

1 suicide or homicide; and

2 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is one of the most chronically
3 underreported crimes; and

4 WHEREAS, There are many barriers to detecting domestic
5 violence; and

6 WHEREAS, An estimated 37% of Pennsylvania women and 30.4% of
7 Pennsylvania men experience intimate partner physical violence,
8 intimate partner sexual violence or intimate partner stalking in
9 their lifetimes; and

10 WHEREAS, Nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by
11 an intimate partner, accounting for more than 10 million
12 victims; and

13 WHEREAS, Twenty thousand calls per day are placed to domestic
14 violence hotlines; and

15 WHEREAS, The estimated lifetime economic burden of intimate
16 partner violence in Pennsylvania is \$156 billion; and

17 WHEREAS, Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all
18 violent crime, however only 34% who are injured receive medical
19 care for their injuries; and

20 WHEREAS, Last year in this Commonwealth, 112 victims died
21 from domestic violence incidents, among which 71 were shot, 20
22 stabbed, 9 beaten and 6 strangled, among other methods; and

23 WHEREAS, Seventy-two percent of all murder-suicides involved
24 an intimate partner and 94% of the victims are female; and

25 WHEREAS, More than 29,000 Lethality Assessments to connect
26 victims with lifesaving services have been completed since 2012
27 leading to 36% of those identified as high-danger victims
28 accessing services; and

29 WHEREAS, To increase victim safety, authorities must
30 carefully follow screening, reporting, documentation and

1 referral requirements; and

2 WHEREAS, At-risk individuals and families need education
3 relating to their legal rights, judicial proceedings, advocacy,
4 counseling and support services, shelter care and crisis
5 intervention; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
7 month of October 2023 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in
8 Pennsylvania.