
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 541 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY DELOZIER, HILL-EVANS, BENNINGHOFF, BURGOS, CIRESI,
CONKLIN, COOK, FEE, FREEMAN, GALLAGHER, GLEIM, JAMES, KUTZ,
R. MACKENZIE, MARCELL, McNEILL, MENTZER, PASHINSKI, PICKETT,
SCHMITT AND STAATS, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

A RESOLUTION

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

3 WHEREAS, Beginning in 1989, the month of October was declared
4 as "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in the United
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, The Department of Justice defines "domestic
7 violence" as "a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship
8 that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and
9 control over another intimate partner"; and

10 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a significant issue in the
11 United States that affects more than 10 million people every
12 year; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against
14 Domestic Violence (PCADV), one in three women and one in four
15 men experience domestic violence in their lifetimes; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the past decade, PCADV reports that more than
17 1,400 individuals were killed in this Commonwealth as a result

1 of domestic violence; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2023 alone, 119 individuals died as a result of
3 domestic violence in this Commonwealth according to PCADV; and

4 WHEREAS, Across the United States, PCADV reports that 20% of
5 pregnant women experience domestic violence during their
6 pregnancy; and

7 WHEREAS, Women with unintended pregnancies are two to four
8 times more likely to experience physical abuse compared to those
9 with planned pregnancies; and

10 WHEREAS, Homicide is the leading cause of death among
11 pregnant women in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, The stress and trauma experienced by victims of
13 domestic violence can lead to depression, feelings of
14 hopelessness, sadness and withdrawal from social interactions;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Domestic violence disrupts the family structure and
17 creates an environment that breeds fear, mistrust and
18 instability; and

19 WHEREAS, Domestic violence normalizes unhealthy and abusive
20 relationships, leading to confusion with respect to appropriate
21 behavior and boundaries within a family; and

22 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Health,
23 children who are exposed to domestic violence commonly grow up
24 to believe that violence is a reasonable approach to resolving
25 conflicts; and

26 WHEREAS, Various groups dedicated to providing resources and
27 support services for victims of domestic violence served more
28 than 3,000 victims in a single day in 2023; and

29 WHEREAS, PCADV estimates that the lifetime economic burden of
30 intimate partner violence in this Commonwealth is \$156 billion;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, PCADV's publicly accessible Internet website lists
3 various resources and support services for victims of domestic
4 violence throughout this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, The Office of Victim Advocate established the
6 Address Confidentiality Program for victims of domestic and
7 sexual violence as required by 23 Pa.C.S. § 6703 (relating to
8 Address Confidentiality Program); and

9 WHEREAS, Domestic violence public awareness can empower
10 victims by validating their experiences and encouraging them to
11 report acts of domestic violence to law enforcement before the
12 violence escalates; and

13 WHEREAS, By recognizing the month of October 2024 as
14 "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," the House of
15 Representatives can inform and educate the public about domestic
16 violence, its prevalence in this Commonwealth, its impact on
17 victims and families and the various resources and support
18 systems available to assist and protect victims; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
20 month of October 2024 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in
21 Pennsylvania; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commit to raising
23 awareness and providing resources to support and protect victims
24 of domestic violence in this Commonwealth.