

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 64

Reps. Pohutsky, Calley, Chirkun, Clemente, Crawford, Elder, Haadsma, Hertel, Hope, Jones, Kuppa, Lasinski, Liberati, Manoogian, Pagan, Rabhi, Rendon, Sabo, Shannon, Sneller, Sowerby, Stone, Warren, Whitsett and Wittenberg offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare April 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness  
2   Month in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the  
4   fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts women,  
5   children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic  
6   backgrounds; and

7       Whereas, The term sexual assault refers to sexual contact or  
8   behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim; and

9       Whereas, According to the National Institute of Justice &  
10   Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's Prevalence, Incidence



1 and Consequences of Violence Against Women Survey, one out of every  
2 six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed  
3 rape in her lifetime and approximately 3 percent of American men or  
4 1 in 33, have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their  
5 lifetime; and

6       Whereas, Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to  
7 confront the reality. From 2009-2013, Child Protective Services  
8 agencies substantiated, or found strong evidence to indicate that,  
9 63,000 children a year were victims of sexual abuse and a majority  
10 of child victims are ages 12-17. Of victims under the age of 18, 34  
11 percent of victims of sexual assault and rape are under the age of  
12 12 and 66 percent of victims of sexual assault and rape are ages  
13 12-17; and

14       Whereas, Michigan State Police statistics indicate that 11,873  
15 sexual assault related offences were reported to law enforcement in  
16 2013; and

17       Whereas, Sexual violence can deeply and enduringly impact  
18 survivors on psychological, emotional, and social levels. Ninety-  
19 four percent of women who are raped experience posttraumatic stress  
20 disorder (PTSD) symptoms during the two weeks following the rape  
21 and approximately 70 percent of rape or sexual assault victims  
22 experience moderate to severe distress, a larger percentage than  
23 for any other violent crime studied in the National Crime  
24 Victimization Survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Access to  
25 informed and supportive services can greatly increase survivors'  
26 ability to heal from sexual assault; and

27       Whereas, Sexual violence is an intolerable violent crime with  
28 public health implications for every person in Michigan. Our state  
29 and individual communities must be committed to hold sexual assault

1 perpetrators accountable for their heinous crimes; and

2       Whereas, When we actively increase education, awareness, and  
3 community involvement, we can help prevent sexual violence and  
4 create a safer environment for everyone. We must work together to  
5 educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent  
6 sexual assault, support survivors, and ensure that survivors are  
7 not re-victimized; now, therefore, be it

8       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
9 this legislative body declare April 2019 as Sexual Assault  
10 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We strongly support the  
11 efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every  
12 citizen, to actively engage in public and private efforts to  
13 prevent sexual violence and will take appropriate action and  
14 support one another to create a safer environment for all.