

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.35

Senator Santana, Alexander, Ananich, Bayer, Brinks, Bullock, Chang, Geiss, Hertel, Hollier, Lucido, MacDonald, McCann, McMorrow, Moss, Polehanki, Runestad and Wojno offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to designate April 2019 as Sexual Assault
2 Awareness Month.

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

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

8 Whereas, According to a survey from the National Institute of
9 Justice (NIJ) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
10 entitled, "Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of Violence

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

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

12 Whereas, Michigan State Police statistics also indicate that
13 11,873 sexual assault related offenses were reported in 2013; and

14 Whereas, Sexual violence can deeply and enduringly impact
15 survivors on psychological, emotional, and social levels; and

16 Whereas, Ninety-four percent of women who are raped experience
17 post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms during the two weeks
18 following the rape and approximately 70 percent of rape or sexual
19 assault victims experience moderate to severe distress, a larger
20 percentage than for any other violent crime studied in the
21 "National Crime Victimization" survey by the Bureau of Justice
22 Statistics. Access to informed and supportive services can greatly
23 increase survivors' ability to heal from sexual assault; and

24 Whereas, Sexual violence is an intolerable violent crime with
25 public health implications for every person. Our state and
26 individual communities must be committed to holding sexual assault
27 perpetrators accountable for their heinous crimes; and

28 Whereas, When we actively increase education, awareness, and
29 community involvement, we can help prevent sexual violence and

1 create a safer environment for everyone. We must work together to
2 educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent
3 sexual assault, support survivors, and ensure that all survivors
4 are not re-victimized; now, therefore, be it

5 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
6 body designate April 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be
7 it further

8 Resolved, That we strongly support the efforts of national,
9 state, and local partners, and of every citizen, to actively engage
10 in public and private efforts to prevent sexual violence, while
11 also taking appropriate action and supporting one another to create
12 a safer environment for all.