

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 81

Senators Bayer, Santana, Moss, Irwin, McMorrow, Polehanki, Brinks, Bullock, Wojno, Alexander, McCann, Chang, Geiss, Runestad, Johnson, VanderWall and LaSata offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize October 2019 as Domestic Violence
2 Awareness Month.

3 Whereas, According to the National Coalition Against Domestic
4 Violence (NCADV), Domestic Violence Awareness Month was launched
5 nationwide in October 1981 as a way to connect and unite
6 individuals and organizations working on domestic violence issues
7 and raise awareness for those issues; and

8 Whereas, NCADV defines domestic violence as the willful
9 intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or
10 other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and

1 control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It
2 includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological
3 violence, and emotional abuse; and

4 Whereas, Domestic violence impacts individuals in every
5 community of our state, regardless of age, economic status, sexual
6 orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality; and

7 Whereas, Perpetrators of domestic violence intentionally
8 engage in a pattern of behavior to exert coercive control in
9 intimate partner relationships, violating the fundamental human
10 rights of those they abuse; and

11 Whereas, According to the National Network to End Domestic
12 Violence (NNEDV), many of these dynamics of power and control are
13 rooted in gender roles and stereotypes, and conscious education and
14 action is required in order to address these ingrained inequities;
15 and

16 Whereas, The Michigan Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual
17 Violence (MCEDSV) documented, for the 2018 NNEDV National Census of
18 Domestic Violence Services, that MCEDSV member programs provided
19 counseling, advocacy, shelter, and/or other forms of support for
20 over 2,649 survivors during the 24-hour survey period, while
21 additionally providing education and training for over 319
22 individual community members across our state; and

23 Whereas, Throughout the last three decades, much progress has
24 been made to support domestic violence victims and survivors and to
25 hold abusers accountable. Continued awareness, education, and
26 action are crucial to intervention in and prevention of domestic
27 violence; and

28 Whereas, We must work together to educate our entire
29 population about what can be done to prevent domestic violence,

1 hold perpetrators accountable, support the individual and unique
2 needs of survivors, and ensure that survivors are not re-
3 victimized; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
5 body declare October 2019 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and
6 be it further

7 Resolved, That we strongly support the efforts of national,
8 state, and local partners, as well as every citizen to actively
9 engage in public and private efforts to prevent domestic violence.
10 In turn, we will take appropriate action and support one another in
11 order to create a safer environment and help end domestic violence.