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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 206 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, SABATINA, DINNIMAN, KITCHEN, WOZNIAK,  
BREWSTER, SCAVELLO, BAKER, GORDNER, SCHWANK, PILEGGI,  
FONTANA, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, VULAKOVICH, TARTAGLIONE,  
HUTCHINSON, YUDICHAK, COSTA, AUMENT, FARNESE, BROWNE, VOGEL  
AND HAYWOOD, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2015 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 women and men of all  
10 racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic  
11 backgrounds; and

12 WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms, and the victims  
13 of domestic violence are often subjected to physical abuse,  
14 harassment, threats, vandalism, trespassing, burglary, theft and  
15 stalking; and

16 WHEREAS, Domestic violence often escalates over time, causing

1 victims to suffer physical and emotional trauma, anxiety,  
2 stress, sleep deprivation, loss of confidence, fear and, in some  
3 cases, injury and death by suicide or homicide; and

4 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is one of the most chronically  
5 underreported crimes; and

6 WHEREAS, One in every four women and one in every nine men  
7 will experience domestic violence in her or his lifetime; and

8 WHEREAS, Each year, approximately 2.3 million people in the  
9 United States are physically or sexually assaulted by a current  
10 or former spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend; and

11 WHEREAS, On average, three women are killed by a current or  
12 former intimate partner each day in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against  
14 Domestic Violence, in 2013, there were 158 fatalities associated  
15 with domestic violence, which represents a 10% increase from  
16 2012; and

17 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's network of domestic violence shelters  
18 and programs had to turn away more than 5,000 requests for  
19 shelter in 2011-2012 because of lack of capacity; and

20 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
21 reported in 2011-2012 that local domestic violence hotlines  
22 handled more than 130,000 calls; and

23 WHEREAS, The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8  
24 billion each year, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical  
25 and mental health services; and

26 WHEREAS, Less than 20% of victims who report an injury from  
27 intimate partner violence seek medical treatment following the  
28 injury; and

29 WHEREAS, Victims of domestic violence lose almost 8 million  
30 days of paid work annually as a result of the violence; and

1       WHEREAS, Each year, businesses forfeit about \$100 million in  
2 lost wages, sick leave, absenteeism and nonproductivity; and

3       WHEREAS, Each year, domestic violence programs in  
4 Pennsylvania provide services to approximately 95,000 victims of  
5 domestic violence; and

6       WHEREAS, Thirty percent to sixty percent of perpetrators of  
7 intimate partner violence also abuse children in the home; and

8       WHEREAS, Children who witness domestic violence in their  
9 homes are 74% more likely to commit criminal assaults as adults;  
10 and

11       WHEREAS, At-risk individuals and families need education  
12 relating to their legal rights, judicial proceedings, advocacy,  
13 counseling and support services, shelter care and crisis  
14 intervention; and

15       WHEREAS, The strength of this Commonwealth relies on healthy,  
16 peaceful families and the safety of its residents, especially  
17 women and children, and this strength must be ensured by  
18 immediate intervention of the State's justice system and other  
19 responsible and appropriate services; therefore be it

20       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of October 2015  
21 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be  
22 it further

23       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
24 the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence at 3605  
25 Vartan Way, Suite 101, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110.