

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 269

Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault
Awareness and Prevention Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 6, 2017

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. NORTON, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COOK, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MCEACHIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. POE of Texas, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. POCAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. KIND, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KATKO, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. FASO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. PETERS, Mr. COFFMAN, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National
Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Whereas on average, an individual is sexually assaulted in the
United States every 98 seconds, according to the Rape,
Abuse and Incest National Network;

Whereas on average, there are 321,500 rapes and sexual assaults each year in the United States, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 5 women (or 18.3 percent) and 1 in 71 men (or 1.4 percent) surveyed in the United States in 2010 experienced a rape or attempted rape at some time in their lives;

Whereas sexual violence affects many individuals who serve the United States, and the RAND Corporation estimates that approximately 20,300 members of the United States Armed Forces experienced sexual assault in fiscal year 2014;

Whereas children and young adults are at significant risk of sexual assault, up to 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under 18 years of age, and the majority of sexual assault victims are under 30 years of age;

Whereas sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups in the United States;

Whereas sexual violence may take many forms, including acquaintance, stranger, spousal, and gang rape, incest, child sexual abuse, commercial sex trafficking, sexual harassment, and stalking;

Whereas in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs of sexual assault, sexual assault has numerous adverse consequences, which can include post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide, according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence;

Whereas many sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement agencies and many States have restrictive criminal statutes of limitations, which enables many rapists to evade punishment for their crimes;

Whereas approximately 70 percent of sexual crimes are committed by individuals who are known to the victim;

Whereas sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed;

Whereas DNA technology has enabled perpetrators to be identified and prosecuted in many rape cases;

Whereas prosecution can lead to the incarceration of rapists and prevent those individuals from committing additional crimes;

Whereas national, State, territorial, and tribal coalitions, community-based rape crisis centers, and other organizations across the United States are committed to—

(1) serving survivors of sexual violence;

(2) eliminating sexual violence through prevention and education; and

(3) increasing public awareness of sexual violence and the prevalence of sexual violence;

Whereas according to the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, 53 percent of rape crisis centers have a waiting list for counseling services and rely on Federal, State and local funding sources to provide services to survivors and prevention activities in their communities;

Whereas student survivors in K–12 and postsecondary education need access to accommodations and support and schools have a responsibility to respond to and prevent sexual violence;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, health professionals, public health workers, educators, first responders, and victim service providers;

Whereas thousands of volunteers and staff at rape crisis centers, State coalitions against sexual assault, and non-profit organizations across the United States play an important role in making crisis hotlines and other services available to survivors of sexual assault;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims and survivors of sexual assault through—

- (1) the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800–656–HOPE and online.rainn.org); and
- (2) more than 1,000 sexual assault service providers across the United States;

Whereas the DoD Safe Helpline, Safe HelpRoom, and Safe Helpline mobile app each provide support and help to members of the Department of Defense community—

- (1) by telephone at 877–995–5247; and
- (2) online at SafeHelpline.org;

Whereas individual and collective efforts reflect the dream of the people of the United States—

- (1) for individuals and organizations to actively work to prevent all forms of sexual violence; and
- (2) for no sexual assault victim to be unserved or feel that there is no path to justice; and

Whereas April 2017, is recognized as “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

1 (1) it is the sense of the House of Representa-
2 tives that—

3 (A) National Sexual Assault Awareness
4 and Prevention Month provides a special oppor-
5 tunity to educate the people of the United
6 States about sexual violence and to encourage
7 sexual assault prevention programs, improve
8 the treatment of and services to survivors of
9 sexual assault, and the prosecution of perpetra-
10 tors;

11 (B) it is appropriate to properly acknowl-
12 edge survivors of sexual assault and to com-
13 mend the volunteers and professionals who as-
14 sist those survivors in their efforts to heal;

15 (C) national and community organizations
16 and private sector supporters should be recog-
17 nized and applauded for their work in pro-
18 moting awareness about sexual assault, pro-
19 viding information and treatment to survivors
20 of sexual assault, and increasing the number of
21 successful prosecutions of perpetrators of sexual
22 assault; and

23 (D) public safety, law enforcement, and
24 health professionals should be recognized and
25 applauded for their hard work and innovative

1 strategies to ensure perpetrators of sexual as-
2 sault are held accountable; and

3 (2) the House of Representatives supports the
4 goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Aware-
5 ness and Prevention Month.

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