

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.35

Senator Santana 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
11 Against Women," one out of every six American women has been the
12 victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime and

1 approximately three percent of American men, or 1 in 33, have
2 experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime; and

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

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

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

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

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

26 Whereas, When we actively increase education, awareness, and
27 community involvement, we can help prevent sexual violence and
28 create a safer environment for everyone. We must work together to
29 educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent

1 sexual assault, support survivors, and ensure that all survivors
2 are not re-victimized; now, therefore, be it

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

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