

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.180

Reps. Thompson, Johnsen, St. Germaine, Smit, Outman, DeBoer, Roth, Bruck, Meerman, Schmaltz and Rigas offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare February 2024 as National Teen Dating
2 Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Bringing awareness to the consequences of intimate
4 partner violence and supporting the development of healthy,
5 respectful, and nonviolent relationships has the potential to
6 decrease teen dating violence both now and in future generations;
7 and

8 Whereas, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention (in this resolution referred to as the "CDC"), teen
10 dating violence includes 4 types of behavior: physical violence,

1 sexual violence, psychological aggression, and stalking; and

2 Whereas, While dating violence, domestic violence, sexual
3 violence, and stalking affect individuals regardless of age, teens
4 are especially vulnerable; and

5 Whereas, According to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey,
6 almost half (44.3 percent) of teens experienced at least one type
7 of violence and 1 in 7 (15.6 percent) of teens experienced at least
8 two types of violence; and

9 Whereas, One in nine female and one in thirty-six male high
10 school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in
11 the last year; and

12 Whereas, The CDC reported that nearly one in eleven female
13 teens and about one in fifteen male teens reported experiencing
14 physical dating violence in the last year; and

15 Whereas, According to a National Intimate Partner and Sexual
16 Violence Survey of the CDC, 80 percent of female rape victims
17 experienced their first rape before the age of 25, and almost half
18 experienced their first rape before the age of 18; and

19 Whereas, According to the same National Intimate Partner and
20 Sexual Violence Survey, 26 percent of women and 15 percent of men
21 who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, or
22 stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime first experienced
23 these or other forms of violence by that partner before the age of
24 18; and

25 Whereas, Approximately 35 percent of women who were raped as
26 minors were also raped as adults; and

27 Whereas, According to the National Institute of Justice and
28 Statistics, technology-facilitated abuse is also a growing social
29 malady contributing to increased psychological aggression among

1 teens; and

2 Whereas, Technology-facilitated abuse includes, but is not
3 limited to, cyber extortion, cyberstalking, and doxing; and

4 Whereas, According to the Cyberbullying Research Center, over
5 one quarter (28.1 percent) of teens who had been in a romantic
6 relationship at some point in the previous year said they had been
7 the victim of at least one form of digital dating abuse; and

8 Whereas, The CDC indicates that community factors, such as
9 neighborhood collective efficacy, and coordination of resources and
10 services among community agencies, may reduce an individual's risk
11 of perpetrating intimate partner violence; and

12 Whereas, Primary prevention programs are a key part of
13 addressing teen dating violence, and many successful examples of
14 such programs include education, community outreach, and social
15 marketing campaigns that are culturally appropriate; and

16 Whereas, Evidence-based programs such as the "Coaching Boys
17 Into Men" program have demonstrated that teaching adolescent men
18 how to have healthy and nonviolent relationships may increase
19 positive bystander behavior and prevent men from becoming
20 perpetrators of teen dating violence; and

21 Whereas, The Violence Against Women Act of 1994, as amended by
22 the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 and the
23 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, includes the SMART Teen
24 Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Act, which improves the
25 coordination and effectiveness of programs to address abusive youth
26 relationships; and

27 Whereas, Skilled assessment and intervention programs are
28 necessary for youth victims and abusers; and

29 Whereas, Educating middle school students and their parents

1 about the importance of building healthy relationships in their
2 lives and preventing teen dating violence is key to deterring abuse
3 before it begins; and

4 Whereas, Bringing awareness and support to this critical issue
5 will also work to save lives, as teens who have experienced dating
6 violence are more than twice as likely as others to consider
7 suicide; and

8 Whereas, Developing healthy relationship practices and
9 standards in youth under the age of 18 can be critical to
10 eliminating sexual violence and other forms of intimate partner
11 violence. The importance of these efforts will benefit schools,
12 communities, and families regardless of socioeconomic status, race,
13 and sex; now, therefore, be it

14 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
15 this legislative body declare February 2024 as National Teen Dating
16 Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. We strongly support
17 addressing this preventable public health crisis that can
18 negatively impact teens and youth in all parts of the United States
19 and here in Michigan.