



SPONSOR: Rep. Barbieri & Rep. Hudson; on behalf of all  
Representatives & Sen. Blevins & Sen. Sorenson; on  
behalf of all Senators

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
145th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2010, AS "DELAWARE'S TEEN DATING VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH".

1 WHEREAS, there are approximately 120,000 adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 in the State of Delaware  
2 and it is estimated that an additional 10,000 children ages 0-19 will reside in the State by the year 2011, with the largest  
3 increase therein occurring among the teenage population; and

4 WHEREAS, approximately one in four adolescents report verbal, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse each year;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, 61% of teens in a relationship say that a partner has made them feel bad or embarrassed about  
7 themselves; and

8 WHEREAS, 40% of teenage girls between 14 and 17 years of age reported being physically abused or sexually  
9 abused by a dating partner; and

10 WHEREAS, one in four teens in a relationship say they have been called names, harassed, or put down by their  
11 partner during cell phone conversations and in text messages; and

12 WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of these teens were with someone who they said acted jealously and who regularly  
13 asked where and with whom they were; and

14 WHEREAS, almost one-third of girls who have been in a relationship said they've been pressured to have sex or  
15 to engage in sexual acts when they didn't want to do so; and

16 WHEREAS, twenty-five percent of pregnant teens reported being physically abused by their boyfriends, and half  
17 of those pregnant teens said the battering began or intensified after their boyfriends learned of their pregnancy; and

18 WHEREAS, violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications, causing victims to be at a higher  
19 risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, unplanned pregnancy, suicide, and adult re-victimization;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, a study of adolescents and college students revealed that date rape accounted for 67% of sexual  
22 assaults; and

23 WHEREAS, eighty-one percent of parents surveyed either believed dating violence is not a problem or admitted  
24 they did not know it is a problem; and

25 WHEREAS, the establishment of the State of Delaware's Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention month  
26 will benefit schools, communities, and families regardless of socio-economic status, race, or gender.

27 NOW THEREFORE:

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 145th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
29 Representatives concurring therein, that the month of February, 2010, is designated as Teen Dating Violence Awareness  
30 and Prevention month in the State of Delaware.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the people of the State of Delaware call on middle and high schools, law  
32 enforcement, local and State officials, and interested groups to observe the month with appropriate activities that promote  
33 awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence in our communities.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon its adoption, suitably prepared copies of this Resolution be forwarded  
35 to Child, Inc., the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council,  
36 Middletown High School, Delcastle Technical High School, Ferris School for Boys, Cape Henlopen High School, and the  
37 Teen Dating Violence Subcommittee of the Domestic Violence Task Force and the Victims Rights Task Force

#### SYNOPSIS

This Resolution designated the month of February, 2010, as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month in the State of Delaware.