

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 282

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 20, 2005

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BAYH, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. TALENT, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BYRD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. SALAZAR) submitted the following resolution which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families.

Whereas 2005 marks the 11th anniversary of the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322, 108 Stat. 1902);

Whereas since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, communities have made significant progress

in reducing domestic violence such that between 1993 and 2001, the incidents of nonfatal domestic violence fell 49 percent;

Whereas the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 cost \$15.50 per woman to implement, and has been estimated to save \$159 per woman, totaling a savings of nearly \$14,800,000,000 since its creation in averted costs of victimization;

Whereas since it was created by the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, the National Domestic Violence Hotline has been used to answer over 1,000,000 calls;

Whereas States have passed over 660 State laws pertaining to domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault;

Whereas the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 has helped make strides toward breaking the cycle of violence, but there remains much work to be done;

Whereas the Senate recently passed the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 which reauthorized critical components of the original Act and established additional protections for battered immigrants and victims of human trafficking in order to further combat domestic violence and sexual assault;

Whereas domestic violence affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;

Whereas protecting the economic security of victims can help break the cycle of domestic violence;

Whereas abusers frequently seek to control their partners by actively interfering with the ability of their partners to work, including by preventing their partners from going to work and harassing their partners at work;

Whereas only 28 States and the District of Columbia have laws that explicitly provide unemployment insurance to victims of domestic violence under certain circumstances;

Whereas, on average, more than 3 women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States every day;

Whereas women who have been abused are much more likely to suffer from chronic pain, diabetes, depression, unintended pregnancies, substance abuse, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;

Whereas only about 10 percent of primary care physicians routinely screen for domestic violence during new patient visits, and 9 percent routinely screen during periodic checkups;

Whereas each year, about 324,000 pregnant women in the United States are battered by the men in their lives, leading to pregnancy complications, such as low-weight gain, anemia, infections, and first and second trimester bleeding;

Whereas every 2 minutes, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted;

Whereas almost 25 percent of women surveyed had been raped or physically assaulted by a spouse or boyfriend at some point in their lives;

Whereas in 2002 alone, 250,000 women and girls older than the age of 12 were raped or sexually assaulted;

Whereas 64 percent of women have reported being raped, physically assaulted, or stalked since age 18 by their current or former intimate partner;

Whereas 1 out of every 12 women has been stalked in her lifetime;

Whereas approximately 503,000 women are stalked by an intimate partner annually in the United States;

Whereas the influence of cultural norms, economics, language barriers, and limited access to legal services and information may render some immigrant women particularly vulnerable to abuse;

Whereas 1 in 5 adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of physical or sexual abuse, or both, in a dating relationship;

Whereas 40 percent of girls ages 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend;

Whereas approximately 8,800,000 children in the United States witness domestic violence each year;

Whereas witnessing domestic violence increases the risk of developing long-term physical and mental health problems, future struggles with substance abuse, and experiencing domestic abuse as a victim;

Whereas a boy who witnesses his father's domestic violence is 10 times more likely to engage in domestic violence than a boy from a nonviolent home;

Whereas almost 37 percent of all women who sought care in hospital emergency rooms for violence-related injuries were injured by a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend;

Whereas the cost of domestic violence, including rape, physical assault, and stalking, exceeds \$5,800,000,000 each

year, of which \$4,100,000,000 is spent on direct medical and mental health care services;

Whereas 44 percent of the mayors of the United States have identified domestic violence as a primary cause of homelessness;

Whereas over 50 percent of abused women lose at least 3 days of work per month due to domestic violence, 60 percent of battered women endure reprimands for arriving late to work and displaying other work-related problems associated with abuse, and 70 percent report difficulties in performing their work due to the effects of domestic violence;

Whereas existing statistical data suggests that forced prostitution, trafficking for sex, and sex tourism has increased throughout the world;

Whereas the need to increase the public awareness and understanding of domestic violence and the needs of battered women and their children continues to exist;

Whereas the month of October 2005 has been recognized as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a month for activities furthering awareness of domestic violence; and

Whereas the dedication and successes of those working tirelessly to end domestic violence and the strength of the survivors of domestic violence should be recognized: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National

3 Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and

1 (2) expresses the sense of the Senate that Con-
2 gress should continue to raise awareness of domestic
3 violence in the United States and its devastating im-
4 pact on families.

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