

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 77

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month 2008.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 21, 2008

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month 2008.

Whereas, on average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2½ minutes;

Whereas the Department of Justice reports that 191,670 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2005;

Whereas 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape;

Whereas the Department of Defense received 2,688 reports of sexual assault involving members of the Armed Forces in fiscal year 2007;

Whereas children and young adults are most at risk of sexual assault, as 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30;

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

Whereas only 41 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attacks to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas $\frac{2}{3}$ of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;

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

Whereas prevention education programs carried out by rape crisis and women's health centers have the potential to reduce the prevalence of sexual assault in their communities;

Whereas, because of recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies now have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;

Whereas aggressive prosecution can incarcerate rapists and therefore prevent them from committing further crimes;

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all survivors of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations that provide services to assist survivors of sexual assault; and

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

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) it is the sense of Congress that—

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

11 (B) it is appropriate to properly acknowl-
12 edge the more than 20,000,000 men and
13 women who have survived sexual assault in the
14 United States and salute the efforts of sur-
15 vivors, volunteers, and professionals who com-
16 bat sexual assault;

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

24 (D) public safety, law enforcement, and
25 health professionals should be recognized and

1 applauded for their hard work and innovative
2 strategies to increase the percentage of sexual
3 assault cases that result in the prosecution and
4 incarceration of the offenders;

5 (2) Congress strongly recommends that national
6 and community organizations, businesses in the pri-
7 vate sector, colleges and universities, and the media
8 promote, through National Sexual Assault Aware-
9 ness and Prevention Month, awareness of sexual vio-
10 lence and strategies to decrease the incidence of sex-
11 ual assault; and

12 (3) Congress supports the goals and ideals of
13 National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention
14 Month 2008.

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