

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 64

Rep. Pohutsky offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare April 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness
2 Month in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the
4 fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts women,
5 children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic
6 backgrounds; and

7 Whereas, The term sexual assault refers to sexual contact or
8 behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim; and

9 Whereas, According to the National Institute of Justice &
10 Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's Prevalence, Incidence
11 and Consequences of Violence Against Women Survey, one out of every
12 six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed
13 rape in her lifetime and approximately 3 percent of American men or



1 1 in 33, have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their
2 lifetime; and

3 Whereas, Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to
4 confront the reality. From 2009-2013, Child Protective Services
5 agencies substantiated, or found strong evidence to indicate that,
6 63,000 children a year were victims of sexual abuse and a majority
7 of child victims are ages 12-17. Of victims under the age of 18, 34
8 percent of victims of sexual assault and rape are under the age of
9 12 and 66 percent of victims of sexual assault and rape are ages
10 12-17; and

11 Whereas, Michigan State Police statistics indicate that 11,873
12 sexual assault related offences were reported to law enforcement in
13 2013; and

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

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

28 Whereas, When we actively increase education, awareness, and
29 community involvement, we can help prevent sexual violence and

1 create a safer environment for everyone. We must work together to
2 educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent
3 sexual assault, support survivors, and ensure that survivors are
4 not re-victimized; now, therefore, be it

5 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
6 this legislative body declare April 2019 as Sexual Assault
7 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We strongly support the
8 efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every
9 citizen, to actively engage in public and private efforts to
10 prevent sexual violence and will take appropriate action and
11 support one another to create a safer environment for all.