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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 279 Session of  
2025

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INTRODUCED BY DELOZIER, HILL-EVANS, BRIGGS, CONKLIN, CURRY,  
FLOOD, GALLAGHER, GAYDOS, GUENST, HOHENSTEIN, HOWARD,  
MCNEILL, NEILSON, O'MARA, PROBST, RIVERA, SANCHEZ, SCHEUREN,  
SHUSTERMAN, VENKAT, WAXMAN AND D. WILLIAMS, JULY 1, 2025

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JULY 1, 2025

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2025 as "Domestic Violence  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Beginning in 1989, the month of October was declared  
4 as "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in the United  
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, The Department of Justice defines "domestic  
7 violence" as "a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship  
8 that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and  
9 control over another intimate partner"; and

10 WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a significant issue in the  
11 United States that affects more than 10 million people every  
12 year; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against  
14 Domestic Violence (PCADV), one in three women and one in four  
15 men experience domestic violence in their lifetimes; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the past decade, PCADV reports that more than  
17 1,400 individuals were killed in this Commonwealth as a result

1 of domestic violence; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2024 alone, 104 individuals died as a result of  
3 domestic violence in this Commonwealth according to PCADV; and

4 WHEREAS, Across the United States, PCADV reports that 20% of  
5 pregnant women experience domestic violence during their  
6 pregnancy; and

7 WHEREAS, Women with unintended pregnancies are two to four  
8 times more likely to experience physical abuse compared to those  
9 with planned pregnancies; and

10 WHEREAS, Homicide is the leading cause of death among  
11 pregnant women in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, The stress and trauma experienced by victims of  
13 domestic violence can lead to depression, feelings of  
14 hopelessness, sadness and withdrawal from social interactions;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Domestic violence disrupts the family structure and  
17 creates an environment that breeds fear, mistrust and  
18 instability; and

19 WHEREAS, Domestic violence normalizes unhealthy and abusive  
20 relationships, leading to confusion with respect to appropriate  
21 behavior and boundaries within a family; and

22 WHEREAS, According to the National Institutes of Health,  
23 children who are exposed to domestic violence commonly grow up  
24 to believe that violence is a reasonable approach to resolving  
25 conflicts; and

26 WHEREAS, Various groups dedicated to providing resources and  
27 support services for victims of domestic violence served more  
28 than 3,000 victims in a single day in 2023; and

29 WHEREAS, PCADV estimates that the lifetime economic burden of  
30 intimate partner violence in this Commonwealth is \$156 billion;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, PCADV's publicly accessible Internet website lists  
3 various resources and support services for victims of domestic  
4 violence throughout this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, The Office of Victim Advocate established the  
6 Address Confidentiality Program for victims of domestic and  
7 sexual violence as required by 23 Pa.C.S. § 6703; and

8 WHEREAS, Domestic violence public awareness can empower  
9 victims by validating their experiences and encouraging them to  
10 report acts of domestic violence to law enforcement before the  
11 violence escalates; and

12 WHEREAS, By recognizing the month of October 2025 as  
13 "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," the House of  
14 Representatives can inform and educate the public about domestic  
15 violence, its prevalence in this Commonwealth, its impact on  
16 victims and families and the various resources and support  
17 systems available to assist and protect victims; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
19 month of October 2025 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in  
20 Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commit to raising  
22 awareness and providing resources to support and protect victims  
23 of domestic violence in this Commonwealth.