

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 136 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY MARTIN, PENNYCUICK, FARRY, BROWN, ROTHMAN,
BOSCOLA, CULVER, KANE, LAUGHLIN, PHILLIPS-HILL, PISCIOTTANO,
SANTARSIERO, VOGEL AND J. WARD, JULY 31, 2025

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JULY 31, 2025

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of August 17 through 23, 2025, as "Social
2 Media Safety and Parental Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Sextortion is a rapidly growing form of online child
4 exploitation in which predators coerce victims into sharing
5 explicit images or videos and then threaten to distribute the
6 content unless specific demands are met; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2024, the National Center for Missing and
8 Exploited Children's CyberTipline received 20.5 million reports
9 of suspected child sexual exploitation; and

10 WHEREAS, This number includes 546,000 cases of online
11 enticement, a 192% increase from 2023; and

12 WHEREAS, Among persons under 28 years of age, exposure to
13 sexual imagery began around 13 years of age; and

14 WHEREAS, Among teens, one in five have experienced
15 sextortion; and

16 WHEREAS, An estimated 17% of teen victims were 12 years of
17 age or younger when first sextorted; and

1 WHEREAS, Teenage boys, 13 to 17 years of age, are most
2 frequently targeted; and

3 WHEREAS, Victims as young as 8 years of age have been
4 reported; and

5 WHEREAS, While boys comprise the majority of sextortion
6 victims, there has been a 2,600% increase in reports involving
7 girls; and

8 WHEREAS, The threat to children and teens is rapidly
9 expanding across all demographics; and

10 WHEREAS, Reports involving artificial intelligence (AI),
11 including deepfake images used for online abuse, grew by 1,325%
12 in 2024, with more than 67,000 incidents on record; and

13 WHEREAS, Predators increasingly use AI to impersonate victims
14 or to generate fake explicit images and fake job postings as
15 part of larger sextortion and trafficking schemes; and

16 WHEREAS, Affected children and teens may experience severe
17 psychological trauma; and

18 WHEREAS, Among young victims, one in seven reported self-harm
19 in response to sextortion attempts; and

20 WHEREAS, Approximately 81% of sextortion incidents occur
21 entirely online through social media and messaging platforms;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Approximately 98% of sextortion incidents are never
24 reported to law enforcement; and

25 WHEREAS, While most platforms require users to be at least 13
26 years of age, nearly 40% of children 8 to 12 years of age are
27 already using social media; and

28 WHEREAS, Beyond this, 95% of teens 13 to 17 years of age are
29 using at least one social media platform; and

30 WHEREAS, These numbers highlight the growing exposure of

1 minors to online environments at increasingly younger ages; and

2 WHEREAS, Awareness among parents, schools, law enforcement
3 and students is essential to protecting young people from the
4 dangers of social media; and

5 WHEREAS, The beginning of the school year presents an
6 important opportunity for families and communities to consider
7 online safety and other protective behaviors; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of August 17
9 through 23, 2025, as "Social Media Safety and Parental Awareness
10 Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage engagement in educational
12 programming and public awareness efforts that prevent
13 sextortion, protect minors from online exploitation and
14 highlight the dangers of social media as students prepare to
15 return to school in our communities.