

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 36

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin (for himself and Mrs. MALONEY) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Whereas every 2 minutes another person in the United States is sexually assaulted;

Whereas the Department of Justice reports that 248,000 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2001;

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

Whereas children and young adults are most at risk, insofar as 44 percent of 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 less than 40 percent of victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas $\frac{2}{3}$ of sexual crimes are committed by someone who is not a stranger to the victim;

Whereas the number of sexual assaults has fallen by $\frac{1}{2}$ in the last decade;

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

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

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

Whereas free, confidential help is available to all victims of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations providing services to assist victims of sexual assault: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That —

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

1 (A) National Sexual Assault Awareness
2 and Prevention Month provides a special oppor-
3 tunity to educate the people of the United
4 States about sexual violence and to encourage
5 both the prevention of sexual assault and the
6 prosecution of its perpetrators;

7 (B) it is appropriate to salute the more
8 than 20,000,000 victims who have survived sex-
9 ual assault in the United States and the efforts
10 of victims, volunteers, and professionals who
11 combat sexual assault;

12 (C) national and community organizations
13 and private sector supporters should be recog-
14 nized and applauded for their work in pro-
15 moting awareness about sexual assault, pro-
16 viding information and treatment to its victims,
17 and encouraging the increased prosecution and
18 punishment of its perpetrators;

19 (D) police, forensic workers, and prosecu-
20 tors should be recognized and applauded for
21 their hard work and innovative strategies to in-
22 crease the percentage of sexual assault cases
23 that resolve in the prosecution and incarcer-
24 ation of the offenders; and

1 (E) national and community organizations,
2 businesses in the private sector, and the media
3 are urged, through National Sexual Assault
4 Awareness and Prevention Month, to promote
5 awareness of sexual violence and strategies to
6 decrease the incidence of sexual assault; and
7 (2) the Congress supports the goals and ideals
8 of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Preven-
9 tion Month.

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