

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. J. RES. 8

Expressing the sense of 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.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11, 2003

Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## JOINT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of 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.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*

2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

Whereas, on average, another person is sexually assaulted in the United States every two minutes;

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, 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 less than 40 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies;

Whereas two-thirds of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;

Whereas the rate of sexual assaults has decreased by half in the last decade;

Whereas, because of recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies 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 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 that provide 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 Congress that—

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

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

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

23                   (D) police, forensic workers, and prosecu-  
24 tors should be recognized and applauded for  
25 their hard work and innovative strategies to in-

1           crease the percentage of sexual assault cases  
2           that result in the prosecution and incarceration  
3           of the offenders;

4           (2) Congress urges national and community or-  
5           ganizations, businesses in the private sector, and the  
6           media to promote, through National Sexual Assault  
7           Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness of sex-  
8           ual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence  
9           of sexual assault; and

10          (3) Congress supports the goals and ideals of  
11          National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention  
12          Month.

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