

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 NA-
 TIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

MAY 19, 2003.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. SENSENBRENNER, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
 submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S.J. Res. 8]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the joint resolution (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, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the joint resolution do pass.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

S.J. Res. 8 supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. It notes the frequency of incidents of sexual assaults in this country and the importance of public awareness of these incidents. It also recognizes the survivors of this crime and stresses the important contribution that victims, volunteers, police, forensic workers, and prosecutors make to combat sexual assault.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

By passing S.J. Res. 8, Congress recognizes the need to increase awareness of sexual assault and recognize the important contribution of various groups that combat sexual assault. Public awareness is a vital tool in combating the incidence of sexual assault.

The problem of sexual assault is recognized in statistics compiled by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network. On average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2 minutes. The Department of Justice reports that 248,000 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2001. Statistics show that 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape. Additionally, statistics indicate that 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30. Sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States.

Public awareness of this issue is important to encourage victims to come forward and report the crime. Currently, less than 40 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies. The lack of reporting in some instances may be attributable to the fact that two-thirds of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims.

The Congress recognizes that public awareness may help reduce the number of sexual assaults, but there are other tools that are necessary in preventing sexual assaults. With advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases. Aggressive prosecution leads to the incarceration of rapists and prevents them from committing further crimes.

Additionally, sexual assault victims suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed. However, 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.

HEARINGS

No hearings were held on S.J. Res. 8 in the Judiciary Committee.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On May 7, 2003, the Committee met in open session and ordered favorably reported the joint resolution, S.J. Res. 8, without amendment by voice vote, a quorum being present.

VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE

In compliance with clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee notes that there were no recorded votes during the committee consideration of S.J. Res. 8.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee reports that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable because this legislation does not provide new budgetary authority or increased tax expenditures.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee sets forth, with respect to the joint resolution, S.J. Res. 8, the following estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2003.

Hon. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, Jr., *Chairman,*
Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for 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.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz, who can be reached at 226-2860.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN.

Enclosure

cc: Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member

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.

SUMMARY

S.J. Res. 8 would express the sense of the Congress relating to prevention of sexual assaults. CBO estimates that the resolution would have no costs and would not affect direct spending or revenues. This legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on State, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz, who can be reached at 226–2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

S.J. Res. 8 does not authorize funding. Therefore, clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is inapplicable.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8, Constitution.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The resolution recognizes the prevalence of sexual assault and makes certain findings regarding the impact of sexual assault. The resolution expresses the sense of Congress that:

- (A) National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage both the prevention of sexual assault and the prosecution of its perpetrators;
 - (B) it is appropriate to salute the more than 20,000,000 victims who have survived sexual assault in the United States and the efforts of victims, volunteers, and professionals who combat sexual assault;
 - (C) national and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to its victims, and encouraging the increased prosecution and punishment of its perpetrators; and
 - (D) police, forensic workers, and prosecutors should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of sexual assault cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders;
- (2) Congress urges national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, and the media to promote, through National Sexual Assault Awareness and Preven-

tion Month, awareness of sexual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence of sexual assault; and

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

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee notes that S.J. Res. 8 makes no changes to existing law.

MARKUP TRANSCRIPT

BUSINESS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2003

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 2141, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

[Intervening business.]

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The next item on the agenda, pursuant to notice, I now call up the joint resolution, S.J. Res. 8, a Senate joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness on encouraging prevention of sexual assault in the United States and supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month for purposes of markup, and move its favorable recommendation to the full House.

Without objection, the joint resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

[The resolution, S.J. Res. 8, follows:]

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 8

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.

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;

1 (B) it is appropriate to salute the more
2 than 20,000,000 victims who have survived sex-
3 ual assault in the United States and the efforts
4 of victims, volunteers, and professionals who
5 combat sexual assault;

6 (C) national and community organizations
7 and private sector supporters should be recog-
8 nized and applauded for their work in pro-
9 moting awareness about sexual assault, pro-
10 viding information and treatment to its victims,
11 and encouraging the increased prosecution and
12 punishment of its perpetrators; and

13 (D) police, forensic workers, and prosecu-
14 tors should be recognized and applauded for
15 their hard work and innovative strategies to in-
16 crease the percentage of sexual assault cases
17 that result in the prosecution and incarceration
18 of the offenders;

19 (2) Congress urges national and community or-
20 ganizations, businesses in the private sector, and the
21 media to promote, through National Sexual Assault
22 Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness of sex-
23 ual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence
24 of sexual assault; and

1 (3) Congress supports the goals and ideals of
2 National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention
3 Month.

Passed the Senate April 11, 2003.

Attest:

Secretary.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Coble, for 5 minutes to explain the joint resolution.

Mr. COBLE. I thank the Chairman. I will not take 5 minutes.

I rise, Mr. Chairman, in support of S.J. Res. 8 that supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. This resolution notes the frequency of incidents of sexual assaults in this country and the importance of public awareness of these incidents and also recognizes the survivors of this crime and stresses the important contribution that victims, volunteers, police, forensic workers, and prosecutors make to combat sexual assault.

I am now pleased to yield to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. Green, who has obvious interest in this resolution.

Mr. GREEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding. Declaring a Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month is obviously a symbolic step, but I think in this case symbolism is important because it raises the profile and raises awareness of these challenges and issues.

A person is sexually assaulted in the United States every 2 minutes; 248,000 people were sexually assaulted in the U.S. in the year 2001, and 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been the victims of rape or attempted rape.

We have been making some progress. Rape is down 50 percent over the last decade. But I think we all recognize that now is no time to let our guard down. What these numbers really suggest is, instead, that this is a fight that we can win, that we can make progress, that we can win this challenge and win this battle as long as we keep fighting. Raising awareness is a critically important part of meeting that challenge. We need to get information out to victims to let them know that help is out there. We need to let them know that law enforcement, health professionals and the community care about them and their needs, and we need to get information out there on how to prevent sexual assault.

This joint resolution declares that Congress supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. It gives us an opportunity, this designated month, to work with community leaders to educate the public on how to prevent sexual assault and what to do if you are assaulted; to recognize those in the community that volunteer their numerous hours to work with the victims of sexual assault; and to recognize law enforcement for their dedicated work to increase sexual assault convictions and incarcerations; and, finally, to salute the more than 20 million victims who have survived sexual assaults in the United States.

Prevention is charged with education, and I think designating a month for awareness and prevention will encourage the media, community groups, schools, and parents to get active and to talk some more about what can be done to win this battle and to prevent sexual assault.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of this resolution. I yield back my time.

Mr. COBLE. I thank the gentleman. I reclaim and yield back.

Chairman SENSENBRENNER. Who on the minority side would like to—the gentleman from Michigan. Gentleman from Virginia.

Without objection, all Members' opening statements will appear in the record at this point.

Are there amendments? Are there amendments? There being no amendments, a reporting quorum is present. The question occurs on the motion to report the joint resolution, S.J. Res. 8, favorably.

All in favor will say aye.

Opposed, no.

The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to.

Without objection, the Chairman is authorized to move to go to conference, pursuant to House rules. Without objection, the staff is directed to make any technical and conforming changes, and all Members will be given 2 days, as provided by House rules, in which to submit additional dissenting, supplemental, or minority views.

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