

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 710

Designating the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009, as “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week”.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 20, 2008

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

DECEMBER 11 (legislative day, DECEMBER 10), 2008  
Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Designating the week of February 2 through February 6, 2009, as “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week”.

Whereas 1 in 11 adolescents reports being a victim of physical dating violence;

Whereas dating violence occurs more frequently among black students (13.9 percent) than among Hispanic (9.3 percent) or white (7 percent) students;

Whereas 1 in 5 teenagers in a serious relationship reports having been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 teenagers have been in a relationship where a partner is verbally abusive;

Whereas 30 percent of teenagers in a dating relationship have been text messaged 10, 20, or 30 times per hour by a partner attempting to find out where they are, what they are doing, or who they are with;

Whereas 40 percent of the youngest “tweens”, those between the ages of 11 and 12, report that their friends are victims of verbal abuse in dating relationships;

Whereas nearly 3 in 4 tweens say that dating relationships usually begin at age 14 or younger;

Whereas 29 percent of girls who have been in a relationship said that they have been pressured to have sex or to engage in sexual activities that they did not want;

Whereas 69 percent of all teenagers who had sex by age 14 said they have experienced 1 or more types of abuse in a dating relationship;

Whereas 1 in 5 teenagers (20 percent) between the ages of 13 and 14 say their friends are victims of dating violence;

Whereas in 2003, in a national survey of over 14,000 high school students conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, just over 8 percent of boys and girls reported physical dating violence victimization and were more likely to engage in risky behaviors including sexual intercourse, attempted suicide, episodic heavy drinking, and physical fighting;

Whereas Native American women experience higher rates of interpersonal violence than any other population group;

Whereas violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, putting them at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult revictimization;

Whereas the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater in cases where the pattern of violence has been established in adolescence;

Whereas more than 3 times as many tweens (20 percent) as parents of tweens (6 percent) admit that parents know little or nothing about the tweens' dating relationships;

Whereas a majority of parents surveyed either believe dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is an issue; and

Whereas the establishment of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week will benefit schools, communities, and families regardless of socio-economic status, race, or sex: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2            (1) designates the week of February 2 through  
3        February 6, 2009, as “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week”; and

4            (2) calls upon the people of the United States,  
5        high schools, law enforcement, State and local officials,  
6        and interested groups to observe National  
7        Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention  
8        Week with appropriate programs and activities that  
9        promote awareness and prevention of the crime of  
10        teen dating violence in their communities.  
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