

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing April of 2018 as Sexual Assault Awareness and
2 Prevention Month.

3 WHEREAS, Kentucky has a higher rate of sexual violence than the national
4 average that must be brought into the public focus, because it cannot be prevented until it
5 is openly recognized and addressed; and

6 WHEREAS, every Kentuckian is directly or indirectly affected and impacted by
7 sexual violence; and

8 WHEREAS, children are subjected to sexual violence at alarming rates, including
9 commercial sexual exploitation or human trafficking; and

10 WHEREAS, child victims of human trafficking are more likely to be labeled as
11 "runaways" or "status offenders" than identified as victims of extreme sexual abuse; and

12 WHEREAS, emotional and physical scars resulting from sexual violence and
13 human trafficking are severe and long lasting; and

14 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the strength, courage and challenges faced
15 by victims and survivors of sexual violence and their families and friends, and to
16 acknowledge that not all victims of sexual violence survive at the time of assault or
17 survive the horrific long-term trauma that often occurs in the wake of sexual violence;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, a coalition of rape crisis centers, known as the Kentucky Association
20 of Sexual Assault Programs, was formed twenty-eight years ago to directly confront
21 sexual violence with the cooperation of law enforcement agencies, churches, health care
22 providers, military officials, juvenile justice professionals, school systems, and other
23 helping professionals from Kentucky's diverse communities; and

24 WHEREAS, last year, Kentucky's regional rape crisis centers responded to well
25 over 3,000 crisis calls, provided more than 13,000 counseling sessions, performed over
26 3,300 advocacy services, and provided over 3,200 educational programs for nearly 84,000
27 Kentuckians; and

1 WHEREAS, Kentucky's regional rape crisis centers are working with allies
2 throughout the Commonwealth to prevent sexual violence by empowering Kentuckians to
3 collaborate and act to prevent sexual violence; and

4 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the
5 individuals involved in these efforts, to applaud their commitment and to increase public
6 awareness of this significant problem;

7 NOW, THEREFORE,

8 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***
9 ***Kentucky:***

10 ➔Section 1. The Senate recognizes April of 2018 as Sexual Assault Awareness
11 and Prevention Month in Kentucky and applauds Kentucky's thirteen regional rape crisis
12 centers for their twenty-eight years of dedicated efforts to assist victims and for their
13 efforts to raise awareness of sexual assault.

14 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Kentucky's
15 thirteen regional rape crisis centers.

16 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this
17 Resolution to Ms. Eileen Recktenwald, Executive Director, Kentucky Association of
18 Sexual Assault Programs, P.O. Box 4028, Frankfort, KY 40604.