

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

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

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

8           WHEREAS, children are subjected to sexual harm 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 harm and human  
13 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 harm as well as their families and friends, and to  
16 acknowledge that not all victims of sexual harm survive at the time of assault or survive  
17 the horrific long-term trauma that often occurs in the wake of sexual violence; and

18          WHEREAS, a coalition of rape crisis centers, known as the Kentucky Association  
19 of Sexual Assault Programs, was formed 28 years ago to directly confront sexual harm in  
20 partnership with law enforcement agencies, churches, health care providers, military  
21 officials, juvenile justice professionals, school systems, and other helping professionals  
22 from Kentucky's diverse communities; and

23          WHEREAS, last year, Kentucky's regional rape crisis centers responded to over  
24 3,400 crisis calls, provided more than 15,000 counseling sessions, performed over 4,100  
25 advocacy services, and provided over 3,000 educational programs reaching nearly 97,000  
26 Kentuckians; and

27          WHEREAS, Kentucky's regional rape crisis centers are working with allies

1 throughout the Commonwealth to prevent sexual harm by empowering Kentuckians to  
2 collaborate and act to prevent sexual harm; and

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

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

9 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness  
10 and Prevention Month in Kentucky and applauds Kentucky's 13 regional rape crisis  
11 centers for their decades of dedicated efforts to assist victims and for their efforts to raise  
12 awareness of sexual assault, abuse, and harm.

13 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Kentucky's  
14 13 regional rape crisis centers and survivors throughout the Commonwealth.

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