

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention
2 Month in Kentucky and honoring Kentucky's 13 regional rape crisis centers and those
3 who have been sexually assaulted and abused.

4 WHEREAS, Kentucky has a higher rate of sexual assault and abuse than the
5 national average. This fact must be brought to light as sexual assault and abuse can only
6 be prevented when they are openly recognized and addressed; and

7 WHEREAS, sexual assault and abuse have been determined to be a public health
8 crisis, which hurts individuals and communities mentally, physically, and financially; and

9 WHEREAS, all Kentuckians have a right to be safe from harm, and Kentucky can
10 reduce sexual assault and abuse through policies that increase protective factors and
11 decrease risk factors; and

12 WHEREAS, survivors of sexual assault and abuse are at a substantially greater risk
13 for trauma-related illness, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal
14 ideation, sleep disorders, and eating disorders; and

15 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the strength, courage, and challenges faced
16 by those who are sexually assaulted and abused, as well as their families and friends, and
17 to acknowledge that some individuals do not survive the horrific long-term trauma that
18 often occurs in the wake of sexual harm; and

19 WHEREAS, a coalition of rape crisis centers, known as the Kentucky Association
20 of Sexual Assault Programs, was formed 32 years ago to confront sexual assault and
21 abuse; and

22 WHEREAS, last year Kentucky's regional rape crisis centers responded to over
23 5,000 crisis calls, provided more than 18,800 counseling sessions, performed over 3,700
24 advocacy services, and provided over 2,300 educational programs for nearly 69,400
25 Kentuckians; and

26 WHEREAS, sexual assault and abuse can be prevented and Kentucky's regional
27 rape crisis centers are working with allies to implement primary prevention efforts by

1 empowering Kentuckians to collaborate and act to prevent sexual harm; and

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

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

12 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Kentucky's
13 regional rape crisis centers and those who have been sexually assaulted and abused.

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