

Rep. Cox offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 297.

A resolution to declare April 2018 as Campus Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Campus sexual violence is a prevalent and serious public health concern. According to an Association of American Universities (AAU) report, 11.2 percent of all students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation (among all graduate and undergraduate students); and

Whereas, Among undergraduate students, 23.1 percent of females and 5.4 percent of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation; and

Whereas, A report by the U.S. Department of Justice found that only 20 percent of female student survivors age 18-24 report to law enforcement; and

Whereas, The long-term effects of sexual assault can impact students in a variety of ways including physically, mentally, and academically; and

Whereas, Colleges and universities are in a unique position to help create and foster an environment where sexual abuse is intolerable and prevention is a priority. Effective strategies can help address the root causes of sexual violence and a change in culture is crucial to ending campus sexual assault; and

Whereas, We must work with our colleges and universities to educate our entire population about what can be done to prevent sexual assault, support survivors, and ensure that survivors are not re-victimized. When we actively increase education, awareness, and community involvement, we can help prevent sexual violence and create a safer environment for everyone; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare April 2018 as Campus Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in the state of Michigan. We strongly support the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent sexual violence on college campuses and will take appropriate action and support one another to create a safer environment for students, faculty, staff, and surrounding communities.