

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 255

Rep. Hope offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to encourage Congress to address the unique needs
2 of domestic violence victims and survivors in the next phase of
3 federal stimulus funding in response to COVID-19.

4 Whereas, The spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has
5 resulted in a global pandemic spreading across 146 countries and
6 other locations. In order to combat the rapid spread of the virus,
7 drastic measures have been taken, including the closure of all non-
8 essential businesses and ordering residents to stay at home; and

9 Whereas, While these measures are necessary to protect the
10 health and safety of vulnerable populations, the heightened
11 confinement has led to potentially dangerous situations for
12 survivors of domestic violence. According to various experts,
13 financial stressors and uncertainty due to the pandemic exacerbate



1 underlying tensions. As a result, perpetrators are exploiting the
 2 situation by using the increased vulnerability created by required
 3 physical distancing and resultant social isolation as a new or
 4 heightened tactic of abuse; and

5 Whereas, There has been a documented increase in contacts made
 6 to domestic violence programs across the country. In Michigan,
 7 contacts to the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual
 8 Violence have grown in March and the first half of April in 2020,
 9 compared to the same period in 2019. The state Domestic and Sexual
 10 Violence Prevention and Treatment Board has also seen a surge in
 11 help requests; and

12 Whereas, Survivors of domestic violence need additional
 13 resources and support to cope with the far-reaching consequences of
 14 this pandemic. In a letter to Congress, the National Coalition
 15 Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) urged Congress to ensure that
 16 their next stimulus bill "comprehensively meets the needs of
 17 victims and survivors that are both created and compounded by the
 18 COVID-19 crisis"; now, therefore, be it

19 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we encourage
 20 Congress to address the unique needs of domestic violence victims
 21 and survivors in the next phase of federal stimulus funding in
 22 response to COVID-19 and honor the requests for appropriations by
 23 Michigan and national domestic violence programs for US Departments
 24 of Justice, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban
 25 Development; and be it further

26 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
 27 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
 28 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan
 29 congressional delegation.

