

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 89

Reps. Morse, Pohutsky, Weiss, Rogers, Conlin, Martus, McKinney, MacDonell, Rheingans, Skaggs, Fitzgerald, Farhat, O'Neal, Tyrone Carter, Stone, Haadsma, Neeley, Scott, Dievendorf, Puri, Hood, Byrnes, Hope, Hill, Paiz, Brabec, McFall, Mentzer, Churches, Tsernoglou, Snyder, Jaime Greene and Whitsett offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare April 2023 as Sexual Assault Awareness  
2 Month in the state of Michigan.

3           Whereas, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the  
4 fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts women,  
5 children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic  
6 backgrounds; and

7           Whereas, The term sexual assault refers to sexual contact or

1 behavior that occurs without explicit consent of the victim; and

2       Whereas, According to the National Sexual Violence Resource  
3 Center, one out of every five American women has been the victim of  
4 an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime and approximately  
5 2.6 percent of American men have experienced an attempted or  
6 completed rape in their lifetime; and

7       Whereas, Child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to  
8 confront the reality. From 2009-2013, child protective services  
9 agencies substantiated, or found strong evidence to indicate that,  
10 63,000 children a year were victims of sexual abuse and a majority  
11 of child victims are ages 12-17. Of victims under the age of 18, 34  
12 percent of victims of sexual assault and rape are under age 12; and

13       Whereas, Michigan State Police statistics indicate that there  
14 were 6,823 incidents of rape that were reported to law enforcement  
15 in 2019; and

16       Whereas, Sexual violence can deeply and enduringly impact  
17 survivors on psychological, emotional, and social levels. Ninety-  
18 four percent of women who are raped experience posttraumatic stress  
19 disorder (PTSD) symptoms during the two weeks following the rape  
20 and approximately 70 percent of rape or sexual assault victims  
21 experience moderate to severe distress, a larger percentage than  
22 for any other violent crime studied in the National Crime  
23 Victimization Survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Access to  
24 informed and supportive services can greatly increase survivors'  
25 ability to heal from sexual assault; and

26       Whereas, Sexual violence is an intolerable violent crime with  
27 public health implications for every person in Michigan. Our state  
28 and individual communities must be committed to hold sexual assault  
29 perpetrators accountable for their heinous crimes; and

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

7           Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
8 this legislative body declare April 2023 as Sexual Assault  
9 Awareness Month in the state of Michigan. We strongly support the  
10 efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every  
11 citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts to prevent  
12 sexual violence and will take appropriate action and support one  
13 another to create a safer environment for all.