

By: Hull

H.R. No. 14

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Every October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
2 mobilizes people around the country to join in efforts to end  
3 domestic violence in their communities; and

4           WHEREAS, More than 10 million women and men are physically  
5 abused by an intimate partner in the United States each year;  
6 domestic violence encompasses a pattern of behaviors used to gain  
7 or maintain power and control over a victim, and in many cases,  
8 physical violence reinforces other forms of psychological and  
9 emotional abuse such as threats, intimidation, and isolation;  
10 severe intimate partner violence can include instances of physical  
11 assault, rape, and stalking that leave victims with injuries,  
12 post-traumatic stress disorder, and other lasting impacts; and

13           WHEREAS, While young women are most frequently the victims of  
14 intimate partner violence, women, men, and children of every age,  
15 race, background, and circumstance can fall victim to abuse at the  
16 hands of a family member; the damage caused by domestic violence  
17 extends beyond direct victims to include children who are witnesses  
18 to violence in their own homes, and studies have shown that children  
19 exposed to family violence are at higher risk for mental health  
20 conditions like anxiety and depression, for developing substance  
21 abuse disorders and certain diseases in adulthood, and for becoming  
22 either a victim or a perpetrator of abuse themselves; and

23           WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the  
24 "Day of Unity" first observed by the National Coalition Against

1 Domestic Violence in October 1981; the goal of the observance was to  
2 connect advocates across the nation who were working to break the  
3 cycle of domestic violence and abuse, and it soon expanded into an  
4 entire week of activities at the local, state, and national levels;  
5 the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month took place in October  
6 1987, the same year that the first national toll-free hotline for  
7 victims of domestic violence was established; and

8 WHEREAS, During Domestic Violence Awareness Month,  
9 advocates, supporters, and survivors gather together to raise  
10 public awareness of domestic violence, to celebrate the progress  
11 that has been made, and to call attention to the work that must be  
12 done to protect future victims of this devastating crime; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
15 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby recognize October 2021 as  
16 Domestic Violence Awareness Month and encourage Texans to learn  
17 more about how they can stand up against domestic violence in their  
18 communities.