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By:  Hull H.R. No. 11

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the "Day of Unity" first observed by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in October 1981; the goal of the observance was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to break the cycle of domestic violence and abuse, and it soon expanded into an entire week of activities at the local, state, and national levels; the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month took place in October 1987, the same year that the first national toll-free hotline for victims of domestic violence was established; and

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby recognize October 2023 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and encourage Texans to learn more about how they can stand up against domestic violence in their communities.