

107TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 584

Supporting the goals and ideas of a National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 10, 2002

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Judiciary

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# RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideas of a National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Whereas rape and sexual assault by non-strangers and strangers affects women, children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds;

Whereas women, children, and men suffer multiple types of sexual violence;

Whereas the Department of Justice reports that a sexual assault occurs every 90 seconds;

Whereas it is estimated by the Bureau of Justice Statistics that over 70 percent of rapes are never reported to the police;

Whereas in addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual assault may also have associated con-

sequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide;

Whereas it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals who provide services to survivors and work to increase the public understanding of this significant problem;

Whereas State coalitions and local rape crisis centers across the Nation are committed to increasing public awareness of sexual violence and its prevalence and to eliminating it through education;

Whereas important partnerships have been formed among criminal and juvenile justice agencies, allied professionals, and victim services;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified sexual assault as a significant, costly, and preventable health issue; and

Whereas the United States Government has expressed a commitment to eliminating sexual violence in society with various legislative actions and appropriations, including the Violence Against Women Act, Grants to Combat Violence Against Women on Campus, and through projects of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Now, therefore, be it

- 1        *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
  - 2                (1) supports the goals and ideas of a National
  - 3                Sexual Assault Awareness Month;
  - 4                (2) encourages individual and collective efforts
  - 5                that reflect the vision of a Nation where no sexual
  - 6                assault victim goes un-served or ever feels there is

1 no path to justice and where citizens work toward  
2 eliminating all forms of sexual violence; and

3 (3) requests the President to issue a proclama-  
4 tion calling on the people of the United States and  
5 interested groups to observe a National Sexual As-  
6 sault Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies,  
7 activities, and programs to reflect the commitment  
8 to eliminating sexual violence from society and to ac-  
9 knowledge the work of organizations and individuals  
10 against sexual violence.

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