

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

Relating to October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Missouri.

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of coercion and physical, emotional, and financial abuse often perpetrated by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, an average of twenty-four men and women per minute suffered an incident of rape, stalking, or physical violence by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, one in three women will experience some form of domestic violence in their lives; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, over fifteen million children are exposed to incidents of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, national domestic violence hotlines receive over twenty-three thousand calls every day; and

WHEREAS, in Missouri, over forty-one thousand incidents of domestic violence were reported in 2012, seventy-six of which resulted in homicide; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is one of the most under-reported crimes; and

WHEREAS, the widespread silence and stigma surrounding domestic violence leads to a cycle of fear and shame that affects not only the victim, but the victim's family and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Domestic Violence Awareness Month would provide an appropriate venue to communicate an important message to the public about the extent of domestic violence and the existence of community programs and other resources to aid those in need:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby recognize each year the month of October as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the citizens of Missouri are encourage to participate in appropriate activities such as wearing the color purple to raise awareness of domestic violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to send properly inscribed copies of this resolution to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.