

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77

BY REPRESENTATIVE IVEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that protection from sexual exploitation is a social right possessed by all individuals; that implementation of legal safeguards to prevent sexual assault is essential to societal well-being; and that the provision of support for victims of sexual assault is the responsibility of governments, law enforcement, and social services; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault occurs when an individual is threatened, coerced, manipulated, or forced to engage in nonconsensual sexual activity; and

WHEREAS, a sexual offense is profound violation of bodily rights, and can include illicit touching, drug-facilitated date rape, spousal abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, stalking, and intimidation; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a serious crime that affects persons regardless of race, age, gender, or economic status; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault infractions often go unreported to law enforcement, and, in such cases, individuals do not receive the medical attention that is usually provided to victims of sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, statistics estimate that, in the United States, a rape occurs every two minutes; only thirty-two percent of rape assaults, or roughly one in three, are reported to law enforcement; and of those reported cases, only two percent of rapists, or one in fifty, are successfully prosecuted and incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, according to public policy researchers, reduction of the social effects of sexual assault requires focus upon multiple venues; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement authorities must thoroughly investigate instances of sexual assault, gather and examine physical evidence, and apprehend predators; and

WHEREAS, however, in cases of sexual assault, due to limited funding, rape evidence kits often go unprocessed, and predators continue to prey upon victims; and

WHEREAS, criminal justice system are called upon to prosecute assault cases, render appropriate punishment, effectively rehabilitate sex offenders, and monitor their whereabouts through a lifelong sex offender registry; and

WHEREAS, mental health treatment, social services, and community outreach programs provide the victims of sexual exploitation with support and recovery, and survivors are further empowered through advocacy programs that utilize therapeutic approaches and which emphasize the value of self-autonomy; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month encourages lawmakers and communities to join together to work to prevent sexual assault through education and, in certain cases, intervention, and these endeavors help to uphold the social contract and to promote a healthy environment and a culture of physical safety.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Louisiana and hereby recognizes that sexual violence is an issue of public health, human rights, and social justice that requires preventative efforts by the citizens of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president and chief executive officer of Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE