HLS 22RS-2609 ORIGINAL

2022 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77

BY REPRESENTATIVE IVEY

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Louisiana

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To designate April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the state of Louisiana.
3	WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that protection from sexual
4	exploitation is a social right possessed by all individuals; that implementation of legal
5	safeguards to prevent sexual assault is essential to societal well-being; and that the provision
6	of support for victims of sexual assault is the responsibility of governments, law
7	enforcement, and social services; and
8	WHEREAS, sexual assault occurs when an individual is threatened, coerced,
9	manipulated, or forced to engage in nonconsensual sexual activity; and
10	WHEREAS, a sexual offense is profound violation of bodily rights, and can include
11	illicit touching, drug-facilitated date rape, spousal abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, stalking,
12	and intimidation; and
13	WHEREAS, sexual assault is a serious crime that affects persons regardless of race,
14	age, gender, or economic status; and
15	WHEREAS, sexual assault infractions often go unreported to law enforcement, and,
16	in such cases, individuals do not receive the medical attention that is usually provided to
17	victims of sexual assault; and
18	WHEREAS, statistics estimate that, in the United States, a rape occurs every two
19	minutes; only thirty-two percent of rape assaults, or roughly one in three, are reported to law
20	enforcement; and of those reported cases, only two percent of rapists, or one in fifty, are
21	successfully prosecuted and incarcerated; and

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1	WHEREAS, according to public policy researchers, reduction of the social effects
2	of sexual assault requires focus upon multiple venues; and
3	WHEREAS, law enforcement authorities must thoroughly investigate instances of
4	sexual assault, gather and examine physical evidence, and apprehend predators; and
5	WHEREAS, however, in cases of sexual assault, due to limited funding, rape
6	evidence kits often go unprocessed, and predators continue to prey upon victims; and
7	WHEREAS, criminal justice system are called upon to prosecute assault cases,
8	render appropriate punishment, effectively rehabilitate sex offenders, and monitor their
9	whereabouts through a lifelong sex offender registry; and
10	WHEREAS, mental health treatment, social services, and community outreach
11	programs provide the victims of sexual exploitation with support and recovery, and survivors
12	are further empowered through advocacy programs that utilize therapeutic approaches and
13	which emphasize the value of self-autonomy; and
14	WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month encourages lawmakers and
15	communities to join together to work to prevent sexual assault through education and, in
16	certain cases, intervention, and these endeavors help to uphold the social contract and to
17	promote a healthy environment and a culture of physical safety.
18	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19	designate April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Louisiana and hereby
20	recognizes that sexual violence is an issue of public health, human rights, and social justice
21	that requires preventative efforts by the citizens of Louisiana.
22	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
23	president and chief executive officer of Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Designates the month of April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in La.