PRINTER'S NO. 738

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 105 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY SIPTROTH, BROWN, BELFANTI, BEYER, BISHOP, BRENNAN, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, CUTLER, DELOZIER, DeLUCA, DePASQUALE, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, GEIST, GRELL, GROVE, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HUTCHINSON, KOTIK, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MANDERINO, MANN, McCALL, MELIO, MILLARD, MOUL, MUNDY, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PAYNE, PEIFER, PICKETT, QUINN, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER, ROSS, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SOLOBAY, SWANGER, THOMAS, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WALKO, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD AND FREEMAN, MARCH 3, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 3, 2009

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the month of October 2009 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior used to establish power and control over an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence often causes emotional harm to victims, their children, other family members, friends, neighbors and coworkers; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence affects men and women in all racial, ethnic, religious, educational, social and economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence takes many forms, whereby victims are often subjected to abuse, harassment, threats, vandalism,

trespassing, burglary, theft and stalking; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is often escalated, causing victims to suffer physical and emotional trauma, anxiety, stress, sleep deprivation, loss of confidence, fear and, in some cases, injury and death by suicide or homicide; and

WHEREAS, One in every four women and one in every nine men will experience domestic violence in his or her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, One in six women and one in 33 men have experienced an attempted or completed rape; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 1.3 million women and 835,000 men are physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Thirty percent to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the home; and

WHEREAS, Intimate partner violence results in more than 18.5 million mental health care visits each year; and

WHEREAS, The cost of intimate partner violence exceeds $5.8 billion each year, $4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence is one of the most chronically underreported crimes; and

WHEREAS, There are many barriers to detecting domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, To increase victims' safety, authorities must carefully follow screening, reporting, documentation and referral requirements; and

WHEREAS, At-risk individuals and families need victim education relating to their legal rights, judicial proceedings, advocacy, counseling and support services, shelter care and crisis intervention; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the month of October 2009 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.