

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1811

A RESOLUTION declaring the first week of February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week.

WHEREAS, The youth of Kansas are one of this state's most precious resources and ensuring their safety, well-being, healthy development and positive growth is a priority and responsibility we all share; and

WHEREAS, The transitional adolescent years present new challenges and choices for teens as they experience dating relationships for the first time and, unfortunately, also are prey to associated pressures and expectations that can lead to abusive behavior; and

WHEREAS, The crime of teen dating violence, including physical, verbal and emotional abuse, sexual assault and harassment via texting, email or "instant messaging" is a reality for many teenagers in Kansas and other states; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide surveys examined teen dating relationships and experiences and found that 30% of teens in a dating relationship have been text-messaged 10-30 times an hour by a partner to find out where they are, what they are doing or who they are with; and

WHEREAS, The findings also indicate that nearly one in five teens has been slapped, hit or pushed by their partner; and

WHEREAS, Dating violence is occurring at increasingly younger ages as evidenced by more young victims utilizing domestic violence programs and by studies indicating that 1/2 of youth 11 to 14 years of age are in a dating relationship and that, of those, 62% experienced verbal abuse and one in five experienced physical abuse; and

WHEREAS, Studies also indicate that long-term effects of violent relationships can be serious and put victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide and adult re-victimization: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That February 1st through 7th, 2010, is declared Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. This observance is offered to encourage statewide youth, families, schools, law enforcement communities, government agencies, elected officials, civic organizations and other interested groups to sponsor and participate in related programs and activities and for parents with teens to recommit to discussing dating and the potential for dating violence.

Senate Resolution No. 1811 was sponsored by Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*