

HR 9085

2011

House Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 2011 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, sexual assault continues to be a major social crisis in our society, with one in nine women in Florida being a survivor of sexual violence, and

WHEREAS, sexual assault affects many Floridians, either directly, as the survivor of sexual assault, or indirectly, as a family member, friend, neighbor, or coworker of the survivor, and

WHEREAS, sexual assault has a devastating effect on survivors, affecting every aspect of their lives, often leading to posttraumatic stress disorder and increasing the risk of depression, suicide, homelessness, and substance abuse, and

WHEREAS, volunteers and service providers in Florida's 30 certified rape crisis centers work to provide a continuum of care to sexual assault survivors through 24-hour hotlines, counseling, support groups, advocacy, medical care, and education, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence seeks to improve services for survivors of sexual assault and to prevent future sexual assault through public awareness and services for victims, and

WHEREAS, Lauren's Kids, Inc., the organization founded by child sexual abuse survivor and educator Lauren Book-Lim, in conjunction with the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, has organized the second annual "Walk In My Shoes," a 1,000-

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29 | mile, healing-journey walk across Florida which symbolizes the
30 | long and painful road to recovery for survivors of sexual
31 | assault, and

32 | WHEREAS, this "Walk In My Shoes" walk from Key West to
33 | Tallahassee will help provide awareness, guidance, and support
34 | for survivors while also working to educate adults and children
35 | about sexual assault, including the message that it is
36 | acceptable to tell others about abuse that they have
37 | experienced, and

38 | WHEREAS, the Florida House of Representatives recognizes
39 | the vital importance of designating a time devoted to increasing
40 | public awareness and support of agencies providing services to
41 | sexual assault survivors, and envisions a future in which all
42 | communities are free of sexual violence, NOW, THEREFORE,

43 |
44 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
45 | Florida:

46 |
47 | That April 2011 is recognized as "Sexual Assault Awareness
48 | Month" in Florida.

49 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
50 | presented to the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence and
51 | Lauren's Kids, Inc., as a tangible token of the sentiments
52 | expressed herein.