

By Senator Simmons

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Senate Resolution

A resolution designating January 2014 as "Stalking Awareness Month" in the State of Florida.

WHEREAS, 6.6 million people in the United States are stalked each year, and

WHEREAS, one in six women and one in nineteen men in the United States have experienced stalking victimization during their lifetimes, and

WHEREAS, the majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know, and 66 percent of female victims and 41 percent of male victims are stalked by a current or former intimate partner, and

WHEREAS, 11 percent of victims reported being stalked for 5 years or more, and 66 percent of victims are stalked at least once per week, and

WHEREAS, 76 percent of women who are killed by an intimate partner experienced stalking, and

WHEREAS, one in seven stalking victims changes residence as a result of his or her victimization, and

WHEREAS, one in eight employed victims of stalking misses work because of his or her victimization, and more than half miss five days of work or more, and

WHEREAS, according to a National Violence Against Women survey, slightly more than half of female stalking victims reported the stalking to police, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's 2011 Annual Uniform Crime Report reflected a 65.1 percent increase in simple stalking in the state, and

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30 WHEREAS, stalking is a known precursor to domestic and  
31 dating violence homicide, and the Florida Department of Law  
32 Enforcement's 2012 Semi-Annual Uniform Crime Report reflected a  
33 21 percent increase in domestic violence homicides in the state,  
34 and

35 WHEREAS, January has been designated "National Stalking  
36 Awareness Month" in the United States, NOW, THEREFORE,

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38 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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40 That January 2014 is designated as "Stalking Awareness  
41 Month" in the State of Florida, providing an opportunity to  
42 educate the public about the dangers of stalking behavior and to  
43 raise awareness about protection laws and the resources  
44 available to stalking victims.