

By Senator Berman

26-00243-23

202368__

Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing April 2023 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" and Wednesday, April 5, 2023, as "Start by Believing Day" in Florida.

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual trauma and abuse are widespread and impact every person in this state, and

WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm the people of this state, with statistics showing that 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have experienced an attempted rape or a rape in their lifetimes, and

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of sexual assaults are never reported to police, and

WHEREAS, young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, with 1 in 9 girls and 1 in 53 boys under 18 years of age experiencing sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult, and

WHEREAS, on college campuses, 13 percent of all students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation, and

WHEREAS, every year, the first Wednesday in April is celebrated as "Start by Believing Day," which provides an opportunity for communities around the world to unite to end the silence surrounding, and change the response to, sexual assault,
NOW, THEREFORE,

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

26-00243-23

202368__

30 That April 2023 is recognized as "Sexual Assault Awareness
31 Month" and Wednesday, April 5, 2023, is recognized as "Start by
32 Believing Day" in Florida.