

HR 8051

2025

## House Resolution

A resolution recognizing February 2025 as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" in Florida.

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), teen dating violence includes four types of behavior, including physical violence, sexual violence, psychological aggression, and stalking, and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute of Justice and Statistics, technology-facilitated abuse is a growing social malady contributing to increased psychological aggression among teens, and

WHEREAS, technology-facilitated abuse includes, but is not limited to, cyber extortion, cyberstalking, and doxing, and

WHEREAS, according to the Cyberbullying Research Center, 28.1 percent of teens who had been in a romantic relationship at some point in the previous year said they had been the victim of at least one form of digital dating abuse, and

WHEREAS, while dating violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, and stalking affect individuals regardless of age, teens are especially vulnerable, and

WHEREAS, according to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 44.3 percent of teens experienced at least one type of violence and 15.6 percent of teens experienced at least two types of violence, and

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26           WHEREAS, 1 in 9 female and 1 in 36 male high school  
27 students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the  
28 last year, and the CDC reported that nearly 1 in 11 female teens  
29 and about 1 in 15 male teens reported experiencing physical  
30 dating violence in the last year, and

31           WHEREAS, according to a National Intimate Partner and  
32 Sexual Violence Survey of the CDC, 80 percent of female rape  
33 victims experienced their first rape before the age of 25, and  
34 almost half experienced their first rape before the age of 18,  
35 and

36           WHEREAS, according to the same National Intimate Partner  
37 and Sexual Violence Survey, 26 percent of women and 15 percent  
38 of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical  
39 violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime  
40 first experienced these or other forms of violence by that  
41 partner before the age of 18, and

42           WHEREAS, approximately 35 percent of women who were raped  
43 as minors were also raped as adults, and

44           WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a preventable public  
45 health crisis that can negatively impact teens and youth in all  
46 parts of the United States, and

47           WHEREAS, teens who have experienced dating violence are  
48 more than twice as likely as others to consider suicide, and

49           WHEREAS, the CDC indicates that there are several community  
50 factors, such as poverty; low capital; a lack of institutions,

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relationships, and norms that shape a community's social interactions; poor neighborhood support and cohesion; weak community sanctions against intimate partner violence; and high alcohol outlet density, that place individuals at greater risk for perpetrating intimate partner violence, and

WHEREAS, the CDC also indicates that community factors, such as neighborhood collective efficacy, and coordination of resources and services among community agencies, may reduce an individual's risk of perpetrating intimate partner violence, and

WHEREAS, primary prevention programs are a key part of addressing teen dating violence, and many successful examples of such programs include education, community outreach, and social marketing campaigns that are culturally appropriate, and

WHEREAS, evidence-based programs have demonstrated that teaching adolescent men how to have healthy and nonviolent relationships may increase positive bystander behavior and prevent men from becoming perpetrators of teen dating violence, and

WHEREAS, the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, as amended by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, includes the SMART Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Act, which improves the coordination and effectiveness of programs to address abusive youth relationships, and

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75           WHEREAS, skills-based assessment and intervention programs  
76 are necessary for youth victims and abusers, and

77           WHEREAS, organizations across the state are working to  
78 solve the issue of teen dating violence and bring awareness to  
79 those most likely to be affected, NOW, THEREFORE,

80  
81 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
82 Florida:

83  
84           That the month of February 2025 is recognized as "Teen  
85 Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" in Florida to  
86 increase awareness and education concerning teen dating  
87 violence.