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House Resolution

A resolution designating February 2026 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, physical violence, sexual violence, psychological aggression, and stalking, and

WHEREAS, according to a study funded by the National Institute of Justice, 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

26 WHEREAS, 1 in 9 female and 1 in 36 male high school
27 students reported having experienced sexual dating violence in
28 the previous year, and the CDC found that nearly 1 in 11 female
29 teens and 1 in 15 male teens experienced physical dating
30 violence in the previous 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 likely than others to think about committing suicide, and

49 WHEREAS, the CDC indicates that community factors, such as
50 neighborhood collective efficacy, and coordination of resources

51 and services among community agencies may reduce an individual's
 52 risk of perpetrating intimate partner violence, and

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

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

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

68 WHEREAS, skills-based assessment and intervention programs
 69 are necessary for youth victims and abusers, and

70 WHEREAS, each district school board is required to adopt
 71 and implement a dating violence and abuse policy and provide for
 72 a teen dating violence and abuse component in the health
 73 education curriculum, NOW, THEREFORE,

74

HR 8061

2026

75 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
76 | Florida:

77 |

78 | That the month of February 2026 is designated as "Teen
79 | Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" in Florida to
80 | increase awareness and education concerning teen dating
81 | violence.