

1 YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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4 _____ Bill Number _____

Legislative Action:

H. Committee: _____

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6 Introduced By: Dani Clark

House: _____

S. Committee: _____

7
8 Authored By: Dani Clark

Senate: _____

9 Delegation: Park

Governor: _____

10
11 Referred to Committee: _____

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13 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MONTANA YMCA

14 YOUTH LEGISLATURE TO: "Designate the Month of February as Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness
15 Month"

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

17 **Section 1.** Whereas Montana is to recognize the month of February as Teen Dating Violence and
18 Awareness Month.

19 **Section 2.** Whereas teen dating violence is a growing epidemic that needs recognition by communities and
20 teens alike.

21 **Section 3.** Whereas one in three adolescent girls in the US is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal
22 abuse by a partner.

23 **Section 4.** Whereas one in ten of high school students admit to being hit, slapped, or physically hurt by
24 their partner with the intention of hurting them.

25 **Section 5.** Whereas one in four teenagers have been in relationships that heir partner was verbally abusive.

26 **Section 6.** Whereas twenty percent of teenage girls who have been physically abused to not attend school
27 atleast once every thirty school days because she did not feel safe at school or going to and from school, or felt
28 threatened by her partner.

29 **Section 7.** Whereas adolescents in abusive relationships are at a higher risk for substance abuse, eating
30 disorders, suicide, precarious sexual behavior, and revictimization as an adult.

31 **Section 8.** Whereas being sexually and physically abused leaves teenage girls twice as likely to report
32 having a sexually transmitted disease, and six times as likely to become pregnant.

33 **Section 9.** Whereas three in four children between the ages of eleven and fourteen report as being
34 "dating," or in a dating relationship starting that age group.

35 **Section 10.** Whereas one in five children in the age group of eleven to fourteen are in an abusive
36 relationship, or know of someone their age who is.

37 **Section 11.** Whereas majority of children in the above age group admit to knowing little to nothing about
38 dating relationships their age being healthy or abusive.

39 **Section 12.** Whereas majority of parents say they had a conversation with their teens about healthy dating
40 relationships, but majority of teens say they have not had a conversation with their parents about healthy dating
41 relationships.

42 **Section 13.** Whereas abuse happens in at least one partners home in a teen relationship with abuse.

43 **Section 14.** Whereas "sexting" is becoming a new way of teen dating abuse through name calling,
44 harassment, put downs, and embarrassment.

45 **Section 15.** Whereas victims of digital abuse are three times as likely to consider suicide as to those who
46 have not experienced that abuse, and three times as likely to consider dropping out of school.

47 **Section 16.** Whereas communities, which includes schools, local and state officials, and interest groups,
48 are to empower teens to build healthier relationships.

49 **Section 17.** Whereas revention and awareness should be taken in hand by education, social marketing
50 campaigns, and community outreach.

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Section 18. Be it resolved February shall be Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month.
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