

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 68

Raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by expressing support for the designation of January 2021 as “National Stalking Awareness Month”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Raising awareness and encouraging the prevention of stalking by expressing support for the designation of January 2021 as “National Stalking Awareness Month”.

Whereas approximately 1 in 6 women in the United States, at some point during her lifetime, has experienced stalking victimization, during which the woman felt very fearful or believed that she or someone close to her would be harmed or killed;

Whereas it is estimated that between 6,000,000 and 7,500,000 individuals in the United States report that they had been victims of stalking each year;

Whereas more than 85 percent of victims of stalking reported that they had been stalked by someone they knew;

Whereas nearly 70 percent of intimate partner stalking victims were threatened with physical harm by stalkers;

Whereas 11 percent of victims of stalking reported having been stalked for more than 5 years;

Whereas two-thirds of stalkers pursue their victims at least once a week;

Whereas many victims of stalking are forced to take drastic measures to protect themselves, including relocating, changing jobs, or obtaining protection orders;

Whereas the prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among victims of stalking than the general population;

Whereas many victims of stalking do not report stalking to the police or contact a victim service provider, shelter, or hotline;

Whereas stalking is a crime under Federal law and the laws of all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States;

Whereas stalking affects victims of every race, age, culture, gender, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, and economic status;

Whereas national organizations, local victim service organizations, campuses, prosecutor's offices, and police departments stand ready to assist victims of stalking and are working diligently to develop effective and innovative responses to stalking, including online stalking;

Whereas there is a need to improve the response of the criminal justice system to stalking through more aggressive investigation and prosecution;

Whereas there is a need for an increase in the availability of victim services across the United States, and the services must include programs tailored to meet the needs of victims of stalking;

Whereas individuals 18 to 24 years old experience the highest rates of stalking victimization, and a majority of stalking victims report their victimization first occurred before the age of 25;

Whereas up to 75 percent of women in college who experience behavior relating to stalking experience other forms of victimization, including sexual or physical victimization;

Whereas there is a need for an effective response to stalking on each campus;

Whereas the COVID–19 pandemic has heightened the risk of cyberstalking and harassment, particularly among school-age individuals;

Whereas service organizations and law enforcement entities have swiftly adapted to the COVID–19 pandemic in order to continue to serve victims of stalking; and

Whereas the House of Representatives finds that “National Stalking Awareness Month” provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States about stalking: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses support for the designation of
3 “National Stalking Awareness Month”;

4 (2) applauds the efforts of service providers for
5 victims of stalking, police, prosecutors, national and

1 community organizations, campuses, and private sec-
2 tor supporters to promote awareness of stalking;

3 (3) encourages policymakers, criminal justice
4 officials, victim service and human service agencies,
5 institutions of higher education, and nonprofit orga-
6 nizations to increase awareness of stalking and con-
7 tinue to support the availability of services for vic-
8 tims of stalking; and

9 (4) urges national and community organiza-
10 tions, businesses in the private sector, and the media
11 to promote awareness of the crime of stalking
12 through “National Stalking Awareness Month”.

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