

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 97

Introduced by Cavanaugh, 6; Albrecht, 17; Blood, 3; Bolz, 29; Chambers, 11; Crawford, 45; DeBoer, 10; Dorn, 30; Friesen, 34; Groene, 42; Hansen, M., 26; Hilkemann, 4; Howard, 9; Hughes, 44; Hunt, 8; Kolowski, 31; Kolterman, 24; La Grone, 49; Lindstrom, 18; Linehan, 39; McCollister, 20; McDonnell, 5; Pansing Brooks, 28; Quick, 35; Scheer, 19; Stinner, 48; Walz, 15; Wayne, 13; Williams, 36; Wishart, 27.

WHEREAS, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a time to raise public awareness and educate communities on sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a serious and widespread issue, as one in three women and one in six men have experienced some form of sexual violence in their lifetime, and one in five women and one in seventy-one men will be raped in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, silence and lack of knowledge about sexual assault play a large part in why it persists. By building awareness, we can end the shame and stigma with which survivors are burdened; and

WHEREAS, preventing sexual assault means stopping sexual violence before it has a chance to happen and will require changing the social norms, from individual attitudes, values, and behaviors, to laws and institutions; and

WHEREAS, the theme of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center for the 2019 Sexual Assault Awareness Month is "I Ask", which champions the message that asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of everyday interactions. By uplifting the importance of consent, we are providing a clear example of what it takes to end sexual harassment, abuse, and assault; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault prevention is everyone's responsibility. We can all work to create and promote safe environments, to intervene to stop concerning behavior, to promote and model healthy attitudes and relationships, and to believe survivors and assist them in finding resources; and

WHEREAS, we can enact public policies and build systems that prevent sexual assault and support survivors in their search for physical and mental

health care, safety, and justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes April 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Nebraska.
2. That the Legislature encourages Nebraskans to educate and engage policymakers and the public in addressing and preventing sexual assault and to unite in supporting sexual assault survivors.