Domestic Violence Awareness Month Resolution

"A resolution that acknowledges the importance of the issue of domestic violence, seeks to extend support to victims of domestic violence, and recognizes the increased importance of this issue in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Action Taken: PASSED

Certified By: Zachary McCue
Speaker of the Senate

Date Passed: 10-28-20

Introduced By:
- Dang Dang, Off-Campus Caucus
- Ariana Myles, Off-Campus Caucus
- Megha Viswanath, Off-Campus Caucus
- Collin Tran, Health Science Center Caucus
- Iman Ahmed, Diversity & Inclusion, Off-Campus Caucus
- Michael Garcia, Off-Campus Caucus

Sponsored By:
- David Garcia, Off-Campus Caucus
- Brendan Ramirez, College of Education & Human Development

Whereas(1): The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, started a Day of Unity to connect battered women’s advocates across the country which eventually led to the recognition of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in 1981; and,

Whereas(2): The White House recognized the importance of this issue and released a proclamation declaring October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Administration allocated nearly 500 million in 2020 to the Department of Justice to reduce domestic violence; and,

1https://www.breakthecycle.org/blog/it%E2%80%99s-national-domestic-violence-awareness-month
Whereas(3): Domestic violence is defined as a type of interpersonal violence that someone can experience at any point in the life course. The types of domestic violence include instances of sexual assault, stalking, physical abuse, economic or emotional abuse, including behaviors that are intended to intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, or isolate someone; and,

Whereas(4): Since the passing of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, the first comprehensive federal legislative act designed to end domestic violence, the overall rate of domestic violence dropped nearly two-thirds between the years of 1993 and 2010; and,

Whereas(5): According to the most recent Association of American Universities Surveys on Sexual Assault and Misconduct in 2019, the following was determined from students at Texas A&M who participated: 12.9% of students experienced intimate partner violence; 27% of female, 7.2% of male, 14.7% of transgender, queer, and non-binary students experienced some form of sexual assault due to physical force or incapacitation; 42.7% experienced sexual harassment from another student, faculty or staff member; and 19.4% experienced stalking; and,

Whereas (6): On page 58 of Texas A&M’s 2019 Annual Security Report, statistics show the increase in domestic violence and stalking cases that have occurred across campus from 2013 to 2018. The report also states that “The 2017 Clery statistics for “Sex Offenses, Rape” and “Dating Violence” show an increase over the same statistics from 2016. Most of the increase (50 of the total 2017 counts of “Sex Offenses, Rape” and “Dating Violence” in the on campus and residential facilities categories) can be attributed to incidents that occurred involving one respondent over the course of relationships with two complainants”; and,

Whereas (7): During the COVID-19 pandemic, data has shown a spike in the number of domestic violence cases. Abusers are experiencing heightened financial pressures and stress, increasing their consumption of alcohol or drugs, and purchasing or hoarding guns as an emergency measure, as victims are isolated in violent homes that lack access to resources and social networks.,

Therefore
Let it be
Resolved(1): The 73rd Session of Student Senate officially recognizes the month of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and,
Therefore
Let it be
Resolved(2): The 73rd Session of Student Senate denounces all forms of domestic violence, regardless of age, race, gender, orientation, socioeconomic status, immigration status, nationality, ethnicity, and religion; and,

Therefore
Let it be
Resolved(3): The 73rd Session of Student Senate stands with all survivors of domestic violence and supports their journeys to self-recovery; and,

Let it be
Further
Resolved(4): The 73rd Student Senate Body commends the Office of the Dean of Student Life and Health Promotions for hosting a series of virtual events for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month 2020, such as #SurvivorSpeaks, The Silent Witness Project, Prevention Panel, Stand Up Workshop, and many more, to help students, faculty, and staff cope with domestic violence and cater to survivors; and,

Let it be
Further
Resolved(5): The 73rd Session of Student Senate encourages all Aggies who have experienced domestic violence or know those who have to access local resources such as Twin City Mission’s Domestic Violence Services and Sexual Assault Resource Center in Bryan, Texas, and university resources such HelpLine, CAPS, the Title IX Office, and the Student Conduct Office; and,

Let it be
Further
Resolved(6): A copy of this resolution be sent to:
President Michael K. Young
The Battalion
Dr. Daniel J. Pugh, Vice President For Student Affairs
Dr. Anne Reber, Dean of Student Life
Mary Ann Covey, Director of Counseling & Psychological Services
Student Conduct Office
Dorothy Nevill, CEO of Twin City Mission's Domestic Violence Services
Sexual Assault Resource Center
Jennifer Smith, Title IX Office Coordinator

Further Sponsored By:

Ximena Reynoso, Senator, Liberal Arts Caucus
Alexia Hernandez, Liberal Arts Caucus
Cole Allen, Business Caucus
Joseph Rodgers, Off Campus Caucus
Brogan Gunion, Off Campus
Mikayla Nasis, On campus
Bryan Marin, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences Caucus
Jordan Vick, Liberal Arts Caucus
Betzaida Perez Gomez, Engineering Caucus
Kat Niño, Off Campus Caucus
Lauren Devenzio, Senator, Off Campus Caucus
Kieran Tillis, Engineering Caucus
Mariana Montes, Mariana Montes, Liberal Arts caucus
Craig Staples, Off Campus Caucus