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HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The National Sexual Violence Resource Center coordinates the National Sexual Assault Awareness Month each year in April; and

WHEREAS, Sexual assault is defined as anything from unwanted touching to rape; and

WHEREAS, The goal of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to shed light on the social problem of sexual assault in America; and

WHEREAS, The annual campaign to "Decide to End Sexual Violence" is promoted during the month of April; this year there is a new emphasis to teach people to build healthy and respectful relationships; and

WHEREAS, No one is safe from sexual violence, as sexual predators attack people from all backgrounds, races, and ages, and sexual assault is a national issue that needs to be addressed at every level, including the State; and

WHEREAS, According to the Illinois Attorney General, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault agencies received 8,688 anonymous contacts regarding sexual assault in 2002, which was a 5% increase from 2001; also according to the Illinois Attorney General, the rate of forcible rapes is significantly higher than the national average; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the month of April shall be known as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Illinois to help bring awareness of this social problem to the people of the State.