



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
April 2017**

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month draws attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and is a violation of human rights and dignity; and

WHEREAS, there is a high prevalence of these crimes going unreported, oftentimes because the victims are afraid or fear they will not be believed; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the immediate physical and emotional effects, sexual assault can lead to short and long-term physical and mental health problems including anxiety, chronic pain, eating disorders, depression, and sexually transmitted diseases or infections; and

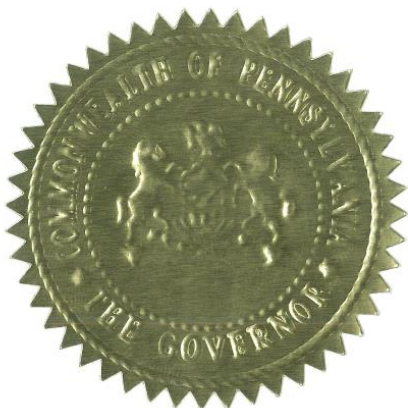
WHEREAS, it is imperative that Pennsylvanians are aware of safety measures that can prevent sexual assaults and that victims are able to attain the support needed to overcome such a traumatic event; and

WHEREAS, with leadership, dedication, and community involvement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing instances of sexual assault in Pennsylvania through prevention education, increased awareness, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has initiatives such as the It's On Us campaign to make a substantial difference in the awareness, reporting, and prevention of sexual assault within the commonwealth.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim April 2017, as SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH. I encourage all of our citizens to join with victim and prevention advocates in supporting service programs to help victims overcome the harm caused by sexual assault.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this third day of April two thousand seventeen, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-first.



Tom Wolf
TOM WOLF
Governor