

Rep. Brown offered the following resolution:

**House Resolution No. 324.**

A resolution to condemn the remarks of United States Representative Todd Akin, and comments like his, and the position of the national Republican party to diminish the severity of rape and marginalize its victims and survivors.

Whereas, Rape and other forms of criminal sexual conduct are among the most heinous crimes in our society. Victims and survivors of rape often are left with not only physical injuries, but deep psychological trauma that may never be fully healed; and

Whereas, Representative Todd Akin suggested the existence of "legitimate rape." Representative Paul Ryan co-sponsored H.R. 3 of 2011, which, as introduced, sought to make a distinction of "forcible rape." Language such as this lessens the severity of the real harm to women. The Republican platform denies survivors of rape the right to an abortion by claiming the "fundamental right to life" of an embryo and supporting a "human life amendment to the Constitution"; and

Whereas, Almost 4,300 Michigan residents were the victims of rape last year, but only 631 arrests were made, a rate of 14.7 percent, despite the fact that more than 76 percent of victims knew their attackers. Language that suggests that the crime was somehow illegitimate could deter rape survivors from coming forward and helping to bring their attackers to justice; and

Whereas, The Violence Against Women Act of 1994, once a measure that enjoyed strong bipartisan support and was easily reauthorized, faced a struggle when Republicans in the United States House stripped the Senate-passed measures of key protections for assault victims; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we condemn the remarks of United States Representative Todd Akin and others in the Republican Party to diminish the severity of rape and marginalize its victims and survivors; and be it further

Resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.