

# SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

Senator Santana offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to encourage Congress to address the unique needs  
2 of domestic violence victims and survivors in the next phase of  
3 federal stimulus funding in response to COVID-19.

4           Whereas, The spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has  
5 resulted in a global pandemic spreading across 146 countries and  
6 other locations. In order to combat the rapid spread of the virus,  
7 drastic measures have been taken, including the closure of all non-  
8 essential businesses and ordering residents to stay at home; and

9           Whereas, While these measures are necessary to protect the  
10 health and safety of vulnerable populations, the heightened  
11 confinement has led to potentially dangerous situations for  
12 survivors of domestic violence. According to various experts,  
13 financial stressors and uncertainty due to the pandemic exacerbate

1 underlying tensions. As a result, perpetrators are exploiting the  
2 situation by using the increased vulnerability created by required  
3 physical distancing and resultant social isolation as a new or  
4 heightened tactic of abuse; and

5       Whereas, There has been a documented increase in contacts made  
6 to domestic violence programs across the country. In Michigan,  
7 contacts to the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual  
8 Violence have grown in March and the first half of April in 2020,  
9 compared to the same period in 2019. The state Domestic and Sexual  
10 Violence Prevention and Treatment Board has also seen a surge in  
11 help requests; and

12       Whereas, Survivors of domestic violence need additional  
13 resources and support to cope with the far-reaching consequences of  
14 this pandemic. In a letter to Congress, the National Coalition  
15 Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) urged Congress to ensure that  
16 their next stimulus bill "comprehensively meets the needs of  
17 victims and survivors that are both created and compounded by the  
18 COVID-19 crisis"; now, therefore, be it

19       Resolved by the Senate, That we encourage Congress to address  
20 the unique needs of domestic violence victims and survivors in the  
21 next phase of federal stimulus funding in response to COVID-19 and  
22 honor the requests for appropriations by Michigan and national  
23 domestic violence programs for the United States Departments of  
24 Justice, Health and Human Services, and Housing and Urban  
25 Development; and be it further

26       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
27 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
28 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan  
29 congressional delegation.