

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 537

Supporting the National Sexual Assault Hotline and commending the Hotline for counseling and supporting more than 1,000,000 callers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 20, 2006

Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Supporting the National Sexual Assault Hotline and commending the Hotline for counseling and supporting more than 1,000,000 callers.

Whereas it is estimated that a sexual assault occurs every 2.5 minutes in the United States and more than 200,000 people in the United States each year are victims of sexual assault;

Whereas 1 of every 6 women and 1 of every 33 men in the United States have been victims of rape or attempted rape, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas the Uniform Crime Reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation rank rape second only to murder in the hierarchy of violent crimes;

Whereas research suggests that sexual assault victims who receive counseling are more likely to report the assault to the police and to participate in the prosecution of the offender;

Whereas, in June 2006, the National Sexual Assault Hotline (referred to in this preamble as “Hotline”) helped its 1,000,000th caller;

Whereas the Hotline operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, offering important, free, and confidential crisis intervention, support, information, and referrals for victims of sexual assault and their friends and families;

Whereas the Hotline was created by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (referred to in this preamble as “RAINN”), a non-profit corporation, the headquarters of which are located in Washington, D.C.;

Whereas the Hotline answered its first call on July 27, 1994, and operated solely with private funds for the first 10 years the Hotline was in existence;

Whereas RAINN continues to operate the Hotline today, in partnership with 1,100 local rape crisis centers in the 50 States and the District of Columbia and with over 10,000 trained volunteers and staff, and in collaboration with coalitions against sexual assault in each of the 50 States;

Whereas the Hotline helps an average of 11,000 people each month and in 2005 helped 137,039 women, men, and children across the Nation;

Whereas the public education and outreach undertaken by RAINN and local rape crisis centers have increased public awareness of sexual violence and contributed to a 58-percent decline in crimes of sexual violence since 1993;

Whereas the Hotline has experienced a significant increase in call volume as public awareness of sexual violence has grown, with calls to the Hotline increasing by 43 percent since 2003;

Whereas millions of Americans have learned of the services available through the Hotline, thanks to the public service promotion contributed by every national broadcast television network, a dozen cable networks, and more than 1,000 radio stations, newspapers, and magazines; and

Whereas the Hotline serves as an outstanding example of a successful partnership between the Federal Government, the private sector, and individuals: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the National Sexual Assault Hot-
3 line; and

4 (2) commends the National Sexual Assault Hot-
5 line for counseling and supporting more than
6 1,000,000 callers.

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