



"Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting"

P.O. Box 1404

Rockville, MD 20849

<http://www.mediadar.org>

781-956-1034

info@mediadar.org

August 18, 2007

RE: HRES 590 Regarding National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Honorable George Miller and Howard McKeon:

On behalf of over 80 organizations, I am writing to express our deep concern about House Resolution 590, which has been referred for consideration to the Committee on Education and Labor. Our review reveals that most of the Resolution's statements are one-sided, misleading, apparently contradictory, exaggerated, defamatory, or simply wrong. One Whereas can be characterized as a "factoid from nowhere." Our analysis of the Resolution can be seen here:

<http://www.mediadar.org/docs/RADARanalysis-HRES590.pdf>

The Resolution promotes a scurrilous and unfair stereotype of men that places the domestic violence issue in the contentious area of gender politics. That stereotype lends itself to legislation and policies that serve to weaken families, force children to grow up in single-parent households, and put many more children at risk of abuse.

Government reports and numerous independent studies reveal a picture of domestic violence that is very different from what the Resolution presents. These studies show:

- 8.9% of male high school students and 8.8% of female students are victims of dating violence (Centers for Disease Control, MMWR, May 19, 2006, 55(19);532-535)
- Nearly 40% of victims of partner assault are male. (DoJ National Violence Against Women Survey)
- "Differences were observed in the rates of male and female partner violence, with female violence occurring more frequently." (Renee McDonald, PhD. Journal of Family Psychology, 2006, Vol. 20, No. 1, 137-142)
- Children's risk of abuse from their mothers is nearly double their risk of abuse from their fathers. (Administration on Children and Families, Child Maltreatment 2005, Table 3-16, p. 58)

This Resolution is deeply flawed, both in its selective presentation of statistics and in its public policy implications. Its passage would cause irreparable harm to families and greatly increase children's risk of abuse. We urge the Committee on Education and Labor to take no action on this Resolution.

Sincerely,

Mark Rosenthal

President, RADAR (Respecting Accuracy in Domestic Abuse Reporting)

Cc: Members of the House of Representatives