



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Recognizing February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

MADISON – Representative Melissa Sargent (D-Madison) released the following statement to share her excitement at the passage of [Assembly Joint Resolution 4](#) today:

“I am extremely proud to have introduced this bipartisan resolution, and to see the important topic of teen dating violence at the forefront. We must create awareness about, and find solutions to prevent, this pervasive issue, and this resolution is an important starting point.

Dating violence is an unfortunate and preventable reality for many youth, and is an issue that far too many parents, educators, and communities are unaware of. One in three young people are affected by physical, sexual, or verbal dating violence, with one in five women and one in ten men in a serious relationship reporting having been slapped, pushed, hit, threatened, or coerced by a partner. Furthermore, statistics show that suicidal ideation is six to nine times more common in teens who had experienced physical or sexual violence.

Recognizing February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month is a first step in helping young people stand up for one another, choose better relationships, understand that healthy relationships are based on respect, and learn to identify the early warning signs of an abusive relationship. Reducing and eliminating dating violence must be achieved through the cooperation of individuals, organizations, and communities, and this bipartisan effort is a hopeful start.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing dating violence, and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims. I look forward to introducing further legislation this session that works across the aisle in order to prevent dating violence from harming our youth.”

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Melissa Sargent is a State Representative in the Wisconsin Assembly, representing the 48th Assembly District, which covers the east and north sides of the city of Madison and the village of Maple Bluff.