

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SENATE

4 RESOLUTION 14

By: Johnson (Constance)

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution endorsing curriculum and policy on teen  
8 dating violence and abuse; encouraging implementation  
9 of this policy; recommending a mission statement;  
10 urging incorporation of such program into health  
11 education curriculums; and directing distribution.

12 WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a pattern of controlling and  
13 abusive behavior of one person over another within a romantic  
14 relationship including verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, and  
15 financial abuse; and

16 WHEREAS, lack of dating experience allows teens to be more  
17 vulnerable to dating violence where they are less likely to  
18 recognize the abuse; and

19 WHEREAS, teen dating violence has become a prevalent problem in  
20 high schools, junior high schools, and middle schools throughout our  
21 country, with one in three teens experiencing some kind of abuse in  
22 their romantic relationships; and

23 WHEREAS, girls and women between the ages of 16 and 24  
24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence. Of the

1 young women murdered each year between the ages of 15 and 19 years,  
2 thirty percent are killed by their boyfriend or husband; and

3 WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that teen dating violence is  
4 starting at any early age with 11- to 14-year-olds able to identify  
5 aspects of teen dating abuse in their social lives; and

6 WHEREAS, early sexual experiences can be a precursor to dating  
7 violence and abuse among older teens and can perpetuate a culture of  
8 acceptance of this type of behavior; and

9 WHEREAS, abuse and violence in intimate partner relationships  
10 not only causes great individual pain, but also breaks down  
11 families, communities, and society at large; and

12 WHEREAS, education is the best mechanism to stop teen dating  
13 violence and is crucial to create a culture of intolerance for teen  
14 dating abuse.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION  
16 OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

17 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate encourages school districts to  
18 devise and implement anti teen dating violence education policies.

19 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recommends that these policies  
20 include a mission statement emphasizing that dating violence is  
21 unacceptable and will not be tolerated as well as the establishment  
22 of procedures, guidelines, and discipline criteria to respond to  
23 such incidents taking place at school or on school grounds.

24

1        THAT the Oklahoma State Senate urges public school districts to  
2 incorporate programs which educate against dating violence into  
3 health education curriculums in middle and or high school.

4        THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the  
5 Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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