



HR0089

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Nearly all domestic violence victims also face
3 financial abuse, and there is a new push to shine a light on
4 this invisible form of abuse; and

5 WHEREAS, Intimate partner violence costs the country an
6 estimated \$8.3 billion each year in mental health and medical
7 care and lost productivity from paid and household work;
8 victims of domestic violence bear tremendous additional costs
9 over their lifetimes from dealing with the criminal justice
10 system and incurring losses related to health problems and work
11 productivity; some studies estimate those costs at more than
12 \$100,000 for women and \$23,000 for men; and

13 WHEREAS, An abuser might destroy the victim's credit by
14 taking out cards in the partner's name and racking up debt,
15 ruining the victim's ability to get an apartment or a car; an
16 abuser might empty joint bank accounts; the abuser often
17 micromanages the family's money, allotting the victim an
18 allowance and demanding approval of every purchase; other
19 abusers sabotage victims' employment by refusing to let them
20 use the car or disrupting them at the workplace; and

21 WHEREAS, Financial abuse has few specific programs or laws
22 to address it in the U.S. but new financial abuse legislation

1 in the U.K. and Australia could serve as models for change
2 here; advocacy groups and foundations in the U.S. have recently
3 launched campaigns aimed at raising awareness about this
4 little-known aspect of domestic violence; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States is far behind when it comes to
6 recognizing financial abuse; we need to understand that other
7 forms of abuse, not just physical harm, are significant and
8 should be criminal; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
10 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
11 we urge more attention be directed to the financial aspect of
12 domestic abuse, and that laws and policies be crafted to help
13 those victims of financial abuse.