



# Allegheny County Council

County of Allegheny  
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## Legislation Text

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File #: 12070-21, Version: 1

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Proclamation recognizing *Colleen Bowers* for her dedication to help put an end to domestic violence in our region, and recognizing the *Center for Victims* most recent campaign, *MEN Challenge* which educates men and give them the tools and resources necessary to use their voices and their actions to be social change agents.

**WHEREAS**, domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault are often seen as “Women’s Issues;” however, that is not the case. Every individual has a role to play in ending violence against women and girls; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Center for Victims* has launched a *Men Ending Violence (MEN) Challenge* in which men who work in Allegheny County are encouraged to make a pledge to learn more about how to be a proactive bystander and speak out about violence against women and girls; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Center* believes that men want to be actively involved in violence prevention, but don’t always know where to start or what to do; the goal of the *MEN Challenge* is to educate men and give them the tools and resources necessary to make a change; and

**WHEREAS**, men participating in the *MEN Challenge* will receive a tool kit that will give them themed monthly activities and educational tips that can be used in their homes, workplaces, social networks and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, *Colleen Bowers*, whose daughter, Melissa, was murdered in 2012 as the result of domestic violence, has dedicated countless hours to increasing awareness of domestic abuse and raising funds for the Pittsburgh-based Center for Victims; and

**WHEREAS**, *Colleen* along with Melissa’s two children, brother, extended family and friends have engaged in several efforts so that no one else in her community has to die at the hands of a violent partner like her

daughter did; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, **Colleen** has worked on a variety of initiatives and has hosted “In Memory of Melissa Bowers Fundraisers” to raise funds for the Center for Victims to help survivors of violence; and

**WHEREAS**, most recently, **Colleen** has championed the **MEN Challenge** by working closely with the **Center for Victims** to encourage participation in the initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, **Colleen** credits a lot of her fundraising efforts to being highly involved in the Ancient Order of the Hibernians. While Melissa was a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of the Hibernians District 11, she worked closely with the AOH, putting her design background to use as a member of the St. Patrick’s Day Parade Designer Button Committee for more than 10 years; and

**WHEREAS**, approached by **Colleen**, the Executive Board of the AOH committed to being participants in the program at its September meeting; the board also asked divisions throughout the county to do the same; to date, six divisions representing some 600 men have signed the **MEN Challenge** pledge;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Allegheny County Council At-Large Member, Sam DeMarco, do hereby recognize and thank **Colleen Bowers** for her dedication to help put an end to domestic violence in our region. And, I recognize the **Center for Victims** most recent campaign, **MEN Challenge** which educates men and give them the tools and resources necessary to use their voices and their actions to be social change agents.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2021.