

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

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SJR25-018

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25-018

101 **CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH, AND, IN**
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SEXUAL**
103 **ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND DESIGNATING APRIL 30,**
104 **2025, AS COLORADO DENIM DAY.**

1 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) officially
2 began in 2001, though the movement to raise awareness for and put an
3 end to sexual violence can be traced back much further; and

4 WHEREAS, Decades of activism and persistence by survivors and
5 advocates led to the founding of the first rape crisis center in the United
6 States in 1971 and the passage of legislation and funding to support
7 survivors, including the "Violence Against Women Act of 1994"
8 (VAWA); and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 WHEREAS, The Denim Day campaign was originally spurred in
2 1998 when the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction after
3 the justices believed that, because the victim was wearing tight jeans, she
4 must have helped her rapist remove her pants, thereby implying consent;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The following day, women in the Italian Parliament
7 came to work wearing jeans to show their solidarity with the victim, and
8 the following year, the Denim Day campaign began in the United States,
9 where participants are encouraged to wear jeans, symbolizing protest
10 against attitudes condoning sexual assault; and

11 WHEREAS, The Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault
12 (CCASA) has served as the collective voice for sexual assault survivors
13 and service providers in public policy initiatives, education, training, and
14 collaborative efforts for more than four decades and has worked with the
15 Colorado General Assembly to pass laws that provide protection and
16 support for survivors of sexual assault; and

17 WHEREAS, Since 2013, CCASA has hosted Colorado Denim
18 Day, thereby continuing the movement of political representation for
19 sexual assault survivors and bringing necessary awareness toward the
20 issue of sexual assault to the Colorado community; and

21 WHEREAS, The Colorado Denim Day 2025 theme is "Denim Isn't
22 Always Denim: Believe Survivors, Act Together, Prevent Violence",
23 highlighting the importance of recognizing that vulnerable communities
24 face increased risks of sexual violence due to their intersecting identities;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Supportive services are a critical mechanism to
27 stabilize and support survivors, and service providers across Colorado
28 continue to face funding cuts and threats to programming, especially
29 culturally specific services and those in rural communities; and

30 WHEREAS, Few resources are allocated to preventing sexual
31 violence, yet primary prevention strategies promote safe and supportive
32 communities for all; and

33 WHEREAS, Denim Day is an opportunity to bring attention to the
34 failures of the legal system to take sexual assault seriously and support
35 survivors, such as the current sexual assault evidence kit backlog in the

1 Colorado Bureau of Investigation that has left survivors waiting, on
2 average, 560 days to receive results and obstructed survivors' ability to
3 seek justice, safety, and healing; and

4 WHEREAS, Continued action is needed to further expand support
5 services, treat survivors with respect and care, and prevent sexual
6 violence throughout the state so that we can all continue doing what we
7 do in denim without fear of experiencing sexual violence; and

8 WHEREAS, Recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month and
9 Denim Day and bringing attention to the ongoing effort to put an end to
10 sexual violence remain critically important; now, therefore,

11 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly
12 of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

13 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
14 recognize April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and designate
15 April 30, 2025, as Colorado Denim Day, a statewide event aligning with
16 Denim Day events across the world, and we are proud to recognize
17 CCASA and other organizations that work to unite Colorado communities
18 in support of ending sexual violence.

19 *Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be
20 sent to Sareen Lambright Dale, Board President of CCASA.