

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R22-1038.01 Ashley Athey x2291

HJR22-1024

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-1024

101 **CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH, AND, IN**
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SEXUAL**
103 **ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND DESIGNATING APRIL 27,**
104 **2022, AS COLORADO DENIM DAY.**

1 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) officially
2 began 21 years ago, though the movement to bring awareness to and put
3 an end to sexual violence can be traced back much farther; and

4 WHEREAS, The first rape crisis center was founded in San
5 Francisco in 1971, the same city where the first U.S. Take Back the Night
6 event was held seven years later; and

7 WHEREAS, The following decades mobilized survivors and
8 advocates to call for legislation and funding that would support survivors,

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

1 such as the federal "Violence Against Women Act of 1993" (VAWA);
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Monumental changes like VAWA demonstrated that
4 national efforts promoting sexual violence prevention were needed. Even
5 before SAAM was first nationally observed in 2001, advocates had been
6 holding events, marches, and observances related to sexual violence
7 during the month of April, sometimes during a week-long "Sexual
8 Assault Awareness Week"; and

9 WHEREAS, Since 2013, the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual
10 Assault (CCASA), which serves as the collective voice of sexual assault
11 victims and service providers in public policy initiatives, education,
12 training, and collaborative efforts, has hosted Colorado Denim Day; and

13 WHEREAS, The Denim Day campaign was originally triggered
14 by a 1998 ruling by the Italian Supreme Court where a rape conviction
15 was overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing
16 tight jeans, she must have helped her rapist remove her jeans, thereby
17 implying consent; and

18 WHEREAS, The following day, women in the Italian Parliament
19 came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim; and

20 WHEREAS, Peace Over Violence developed the Denim Day
21 campaign in Los Angeles in 1999, and since then wearing jeans on Denim
22 Day has become a symbol of protest against attitudes condoning sexual
23 assault; and

24 WHEREAS, Currently, every 68 seconds an American is sexually
25 assaulted, and one out of every six American women has been the victim
26 of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime; and

27 WHEREAS, 35% of Black women will experience some form of
28 sexual violence during their lifetime, and African American girls and
29 women 12 years and older experience higher rates of rape and sexual
30 assault than White, Asian, and Latina girls and women; and

31 WHEREAS, Native women are twice as likely to experience
32 sexual violence in their lifetimes as any other population of women, one
33 in five Black women are survivors of rape, and members of the LGBTQ+
34 community are significantly more likely to experience sexual violence

1 than their heterosexual, cisgender peers; and

2 WHEREAS, Statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice show
3 that for every Black woman who reports a rape, at least 15 other Black
4 women do not report, and Latina women are least likely to report sexual
5 violence; and

6 WHEREAS, Historical trauma, racism, hyper-sexualization, and
7 fetishization often prevent sexual violence against women of color from
8 being reported and believed, and women of color often face both racism
9 and sexism when attempting to report; and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 90% of people with developmental
11 disabilities will be sexually assaulted, and around 80% of survivors of
12 elder sexual abuse are abused by their caretakers; and

13 WHEREAS, These statistics demonstrate that a person's identity
14 can place them at a greater risk of sexual violence and make them less
15 likely to report such violence and be believed, illustrating that Denim isn't
16 always Denim; and

17 WHEREAS, Recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month and
18 Denim Day and bringing awareness to and putting an end to sexual
19 violence remain critically important; now, therefore,

20 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third*
21 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:*

22 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
23 recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and designate April
24 27, 2022, as Colorado Denim Day, a statewide event aligning with Denim
25 Day events across the world, and we are proud to recognize CCASA,
26 Peace Over Violence, and other organizations that work to bring together
27 Colorado communities to support survivors and end sexual violence.

28 *Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be
29 sent to Brie Franklin, Executive Director of CCASA.