



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-1024

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Esgar and Duran, Amabile, Bacon, Benavidez, Bernett, Bird, Caraveo, Cutter, Daugherty, Froelich, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hooton, Jodeh, Kipp, Lindsay, Lontine, McCluskie, McCormick, McLachlan, Ricks, Sirota, Titone, Young, Baisley, Bockenfeld, Boesenecker, Bradfield, Carver, Catlin, Exum, Geitner, Hanks, Herod, Holtorf, Kennedy, Larson, Luck, Lynch, McKean, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Neville, Ortiz, Pelton, Pico, Ransom, Rich, Roberts, Sandridge, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Beber, Van Winkle, Weissman, Will, Williams, Woog, Garnett; also SENATOR(S) Gonzales and Winter, Buckner, Danielson, Fields, Ginal, Jaquez Lewis, Story, Bridges, Coleman, Cooke, Coram, Donovan, Gardner, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Hisey, Holbert, Kirkmeyer, Kolker, Lee, Liston, Lundeen, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Rankin, Rodriguez, Scott, Simpson, Smallwood, Woodward, Zenzinger, Fenberg.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The following decades mobilized survivors and advocates to call for legislation and funding that would support survivors, such as the federal "Violence Against Women Act of 1993" (VAWA); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Native women are twice as likely to experience sexual violence in their lifetimes as any other population of women, one in five Black women are survivors of rape, and members of the LGBTQ+ community are significantly more likely to experience sexual violence than their heterosexual, cisgender peers; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and designate April 27, 2022, as Colorado Denim Day, a statewide event aligning with Denim Day events across the world, and we are proud to recognize CCASA, Peace

Over Violence, and other organizations that work to bring together Colorado communities to support survivors and end sexual violence.

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

Alec Garnett
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Robin Jones
CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE