

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R23-0879.02 Lauren Hackett x2291

HJR23-1023

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-1023

101 **CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH, AND, IN**
102 **CONNECTION THEREWITH, RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SEXUAL**
103 **ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND DESIGNATING APRIL 26,**
104 **2023, 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 U.S. in
6 1971 and the passage of legislation and funding to support survivors,
7 including the "Violence Against Women Act of 1993" (VAWA); and

8 WHEREAS, The Denim Day campaign was originally spurred in

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 1998 when the Italian Supreme Court ruled that a rape conviction would
2 be overturned because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing
3 tight jeans, she must have helped her rapist remove her jeans, thereby
4 implying consent; and

5 WHEREAS, The following day, women in the Italian Parliament
6 came to work wearing jeans to show their solidarity with the victim and
7 the following year, Peace Over Violence ignited the Denim Day
8 campaign in Los Angeles and encouraged participants to wear jeans in
9 protest against attitudes condoning sexual assault; and

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

14 WHEREAS, In the last 10 years, CCASA has worked with the
15 Colorado General Assembly to pass 14 laws that provide protections and
16 support for survivors of sexual assault; and

17 WHEREAS, More than 100 organizations have received training
18 and technical assistance through CCASA to support survivors; and

19 WHEREAS, CCASA continues to raise awareness around
20 reporting options, survivor rights, and advocate resources through its You
21 Have the Right Campaign; and

22 WHEREAS, The You Have the Right Campaign is available in
23 English and Spanish and will soon be available in Chinese, Arabic, and
24 Japanese; and

25 WHEREAS, Support services for survivors and advocates continue
26 to require translation resources to serve the 17% of Colorado's population
27 that speak a language other than English; and

28 WHEREAS, Rural counties are home to 13% of Colorado's
29 population, and survivors often point to lack of transportation as a barrier
30 to receiving services; and

31 WHEREAS, More resources around translation and transportation
32 are needed to provide equitable access to services and further address
33 sexual violence in Colorado; and

1 WHEREAS, Current efforts to make services more accessible to
2 all Coloradans demonstrate the Colorado General Assembly's dedication
3 to advancing protections for survivors; and

4 WHEREAS, Continued action is needed to further expand support
5 services throughout the state so that we can continue doing what we do
6 in denim; and

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

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

13 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
14 recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and designate April
15 26, 2023, as Colorado Denim Day, a statewide event aligning with Denim
16 Day events across the world, and we are proud to recognize CCASA,
17 Peace Over Violence, and other organizations that work to unite Colorado
18 communities in support of ending sexual violence.

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