



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 23-1023

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Duran and Pugliese, Amabile, Armagost, Bird, Bockenfeld, Bradfield, Bradley, Brown, Catlin, deGruy Kennedy, Daugherty, Dickson, English, Evans, Frizell, Froelich, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Hamrick, Hartsook, Herod, Holtorf, Joseph, Kipp, Lieder, Lukens, Lynch, Mabrey, Marshall, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Parenti, Ricks, Sharbini, Sirota, Story, Taggart, Titone, Velasco, Vigil, Weinberg, Weissman, Willford, Wilson, Winter T., Woodrow, Young, Boesenecker, Epps, Garcia, Jodeh, Lindsay, Lindstedt, Martinez, Mauro, Ortiz, Snyder, Valdez, McCluskie; also SENATOR(S) Kirkmeyer and Winter F., Baisley, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Danielson, Exum, Fields, Gardner, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Liston, Lundeen, Marchman, Moreno, Mullica, Pelton B., Pelton R., Priola, Rich, Roberts, Rodriguez, Simpson, Smallwood, Van Winkle, Will, Zenzinger, Fenberg.

CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND DESIGNATING APRIL 26, 2023, AS COLORADO DENIM DAY.

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

WHEREAS, Decades of activism and persistence by survivors and advocates led to the founding of the first rape crisis center in the U.S. in 1971 and the passage of legislation and funding to support survivors, including the "Violence Against Women Act of 1993" (VAWA); and

WHEREAS, The Denim Day campaign was originally spurred in 1998 when the Italian Supreme Court ruled that a rape conviction would be 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 to show their solidarity with the victim and the following year, Peace Over Violence ignited the Denim Day campaign in Los Angeles and encouraged participants to wear jeans in protest against attitudes condoning sexual assault; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fourth 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 26, 2023, 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 unite Colorado communities in support of ending sexual violence.

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

Julie McCluskie
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