

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R26-0792.01 Jessica Chapman x4636

HJR26-1025

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Duran and Johnson,

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Wallace and Frizell,

House Committees

Senate Committees

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26-1025

101 CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH, AND, IN
102 CONNECTION THEREWITH, RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SEXUAL
103 ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND DESIGNATING APRIL 29,
104 2026, 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 sparked by the 1998
2 Italian Supreme Court ruling that overturned a rape conviction based on
3 the flawed argument that the victim's tight jeans indicated that she had
4 helped her rapist remove them, thereby implying her consent; and

5 WHEREAS, The Italian Supreme Court's ruling perpetuated a
6 harmful, victim-blaming mentality, and in response, women in the Italian
7 Parliament wore jeans to work the following day in solidarity with the
8 victim; and

9 WHEREAS, The following year, the Denim Day campaign
10 launched in the United States, encouraging individuals to wear jeans as
11 a visible symbol of protest against attitudes condoning sexual assault; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Since 2013, CCASA has hosted Colorado Denim
19 Day, continuing the movement for increased visibility and improved
20 social and political representation for sexual assault survivors in
21 Colorado; and

22 WHEREAS, Sexual assault is a widespread and pervasive issue
23 across the United States, which is compounded by structural and systemic
24 barriers that put marginalized communities at even greater risk and less
25 able to access justice and healing; and

26 WHEREAS, Survivors who come forward show extraordinary
27 courage and resilience by facing challenges that include stigma, fear of
28 retaliation, and systemic barriers to justice; and

29 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month provides an
30 opportunity to both recognize the strength of survivors and highlight the
31 failures of the justice and legal system to take sexual assault and
32 exploitation seriously, including the urgent need for greater transparency,
33 accountability, and meaningful action in response to all forms of sexual
34 violence; and

1 WHEREAS, Support services are a critical mechanism to stabilize
2 and assist survivors, providing healing, harm prevention services, and
3 lifesaving interventions; and

4 WHEREAS, System- and community-based victim support service
5 providers across Colorado are currently facing an urgent funding crisis
6 resulting in detrimental cuts to programming while survivor need is
7 growing and increasing in complexity, leaving critical service gaps and
8 resulting in further harm; and

9 WHEREAS, Continued action is needed to protect and expand
10 these support services, treat survivors with respect and care, increase
11 accountability, and prevent sexual violence so that we can improve the
12 safety of our communities and continue doing what we do in denim
13 without fear of experiencing sexual violence; and

14 WHEREAS, Recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month and
15 Denim Day and bringing attention to the ongoing efforts and urgent need
16 to put an end to sexual violence remain critically important; now,
17 therefore,

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

20 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
21 recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and designate April
22 29, 2026, as Colorado Denim Day, a statewide event aligning with Denim
23 Day events across the world, and we are proud to recognize CCASA and
24 other organizations that work to unite Colorado communities in support
25 of ending sexual violence.