

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

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HJR24-1021

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Duran and Pugliese,

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Winter F. and Danielson,

House Committees

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24-1021

101 CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH, AND, IN
102 CONNECTION THEREWITH, RECOGNIZING APRIL AS SEXUAL
103 ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND DESIGNATING APRIL 24,
104 2024, AS COLORADO DENIM DAY.

1 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month officially began in
2 2001, though the movement to raise awareness for and put an end to
3 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"; 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, the nonprofit organization Peace Over Violence
8 ignited the Denim Day campaign in Los Angeles and encouraged
9 participants to wear jeans in protest against attitudes condoning sexual
10 assault; and

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

15 WHEREAS, For 40 years, CCASA has supported survivors and
16 advocates and has worked with the Colorado General Assembly to pass
17 laws that provide protections and support for survivors of sexual assault;
18 and

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

21 WHEREAS, CCASA continues to raise awareness around
22 reporting options, survivor rights, and advocate resources through its
23 "You Have the Right" campaign; and

24 WHEREAS, The "You Have the Right" campaign is available in
25 English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and Vietnamese; and

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

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

32 WHEREAS, More resources involving translation and
33 transportation are needed to provide equitable access to services and to

1 further address sexual violence in Colorado; and

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

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

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

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

14 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly:

15 (1) Recognize April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and
16 designate April 24, 2024, as Colorado Denim Day, a statewide event
17 aligning with Denim Day events across the world; and

18 (2) Proudly recognize the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual
19 Assault and the fortieth anniversary that the organization celebrates this
20 year, Peace Over Violence, and other organizations that work to unite
21 Colorado communities in support of ending sexual violence.

22 *Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be
23 sent to Brie Franklin, executive director of CCASA.