BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, GLENN COUNTY

PROCLAMATION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2016 AS CHILD ABUSE & SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH AND RECOGNIZING APRIL 27, 2016 AS DENIM DAY CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS, Child Abuse & Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every community member of Glenn County. In 2014, California rape crisis centers provided direct crisis intervention services to 31,781 individuals, provided 7,389 sexual violence forensic examinations, and provided community education services for almost 20,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Women, children, and men are all victims of sexual violence, and it is estimated that nearly one in two women and one in five men experience sexual violence other than rape throughout their lifetime; and the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey reports that there are over 22 million survivors of rape throughout the United States and two million of those survivors of rape are currently living in the State of California. Rape and sexual violence impact women, children, and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and women, children, and men suffer multiple types of sexual violence, including acquaintance rape, stranger rape, sexual violence by an intimate partner, gang rape, incest, sexual rape, ritual abuse, sexual harassment, child sexual molestation, prostitution, pornography, and stalking; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the immediate physical and emotional costs, sexual violence may also have severe and long-lasting consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide; and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have identified sexual violence as a significant, costly, and preventable health issue; and

WHEREAS, A coalition of rape crisis centers and their allies, known as the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, has emerged to directly confront this crisis with the cooperation of law enforcement agencies, health care providers, institutions of higher education, and other allied professionals from California’s diverse communities; and

WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to support all rape survivors by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect; and it is important to recognize the compassion and dedication of the individuals involved in this effort, applaud their commitment, and increase public understanding of this significant problem. It is important to recognize the strength, courage, and challenges of the victims and survivors of sexual violence and their families and friends as they struggle to cope with the reality of sexual violence; and it is important to recognize that not all victims of sexual violence survive, either at the time of the assault or later, due to the horrific long-term trauma that sexual violence often inflicts upon victims; and

WHEREAS, There are rape prevention and education efforts underway throughout California to challenge the societal myths and behaviors that perpetuate rape and to engage communities in a common goal of ending sexual violence; and it is crucial important to hold perpetrators responsible for sexual attacks, and to prevent sexual violence at every opportunity; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, the Italian Supreme Court overturned the conviction of a man who sexually assaulted an 18-year-old woman after the court determined that, “because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex.” Enraged by the court decision, within a matter of hours, the women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate action and protested by wearing jeans to work, where Nations and States throughout the World have followed the lead of the Italian Parliament by designating their own “Denim Day” to raise public awareness about rape and other forms of sexual violence. Harmful attitudes about rape and sexual violence allow these crimes to persist and allow survivors to be re-victimized through victim-blaming attitudes and unresponsive government systems; and

WHEREAS, California is a national leader within the judicial, criminal justice, medical, rape crisis, and health communities in promoting victim-centered approaches to victims of crime. And for the past 42 years Rape Crisis Intervention & Prevention has led the way in Glenn County in addressing sexual violence by providing FREE 24-hour crisis line services to victim/survivors and their significant others, responding to emergency calls, counseling, offering on-going support and comfort to those impacted by sexual violence during medical exams, law enforcement interviews, criminal proceedings, and empowering those impacted by sexual violence to chart their own course for healing; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Glenn County Board of Supervisors join Rape Crisis Intervention & Prevention, advocates and communities across the country in taking action to prevent sexual violence. Along with the United States Government and the State of California, we hereby proclaim April 2016 as “Child Abuse & Sexual Violence Awareness Month” and be it further

Resolved, that the County of Glenn recognizes April 27, 2016, as Denim Day California and encourages everyone to wear jeans on that day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse for, and never and invitation to commit, rape or any type of sexual violence.

2016 Board of Supervisors
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