Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 10 By: Floyd

A Resolution recognizing April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and April 26, 2023, as Denim Day; supporting Peace Over Violence and the YWCA; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the Peace Over Violence organization has declared April 26, 2023, as Denim Day. Both events draw attention to the misconceptions and misinformation about sexual violence, which remains a serious issue in our society; and

WHEREAS, sexual harassment is part of a continuum of violence whose damaging effects are felt throughout our culture. Harmful attitudes about all forms of sexual violence allow these issues to persist and allow victims and survivors to be revictimized; and

WHEREAS, every 68 seconds an American is sexually assaulted and approximately one in four women is raped during her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in Oklahoma, the rate of rape and attempted rape among females reported to law enforcement has been 35-45% higher than the U.S. rate for the past decade; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma law enforcement reported 2,245 forcible and attempted rapes in 2020 - which represented 12.5% of all violent crimes, and reported rape cases have increased 21% over the past 3 years, and 34.2% overall since 2013; and

WHEREAS, youth under 18 account for about 44% of all reported sexual assaults, at least 25% of women experience sexual harassment in the workplace, and about 75% of sexual harassment victims experience retaliation when they report it; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence and its unfair and traumatizing effects are preventable with proper education on the matter and comprehensive prevention projects; and

WHEREAS, members of the Oklahoma State Senate strongly support the efforts of Peace Over Violence and the YWCA to educate persons in our state about the true impact of sexual harassment, abuse, assault, and rape.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate designates April 26, 2023, as Denim Day and urges everyone to wear jeans on this day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse and there is never an invitation to harass, abuse, assault, or rape.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the YWCA.

Adopted by the Senate the 26th day of April, 2023.

Brent Howard
Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 27th day of April, 20 23, at 10:53 o'clock A M.

By: Brian Bingman