

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 106

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 31

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 106—Relative to Denim Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 2, 2008.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 106, Romero. Denim Day.

This measure would recognize April 23, 2008, as “Denim Day California” and would encourage everyone to wear jeans on that day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse for, and never an invitation to, rape.

WHEREAS, In 1999, 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”; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, California and other states have declared April as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault has declared April 23rd as “Denim Day California”; and

WHEREAS, Both events are intended to draw attention to the fact that rape and sexual assault remain serious issues in our society; and

WHEREAS, Harmful attitudes about rape and sexual assault allow these crimes to persist and allow survivors to be revictimized 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

WHEREAS, “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and “Denim Day California” are also intended as methods of calling attention to misconceptions and misinformation about rape and sexual assault, as well as the problem that many in our society remain disturbingly uninformed about assault and forcible rape; and

WHEREAS, The importance of this issue is underlined by statistics indicating that approximately one-in-four women and one-in-ten men are raped in adulthood and the sexual assault victimization rate for youths under

18 years of age has been documented at one-in-four for girls and one-in-six for boys; and

WHEREAS, With proper education on the matter, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing incidents of this alarming and psychologically damaging crime; and

WHEREAS, The Legislature strongly supports the efforts of California Coalition Against Sexual Assault to educate persons in our community about the true impact of rape and sexual assault in California; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, hereby recognize April 23, 2008, as “Denim Day California” and encourage everyone to wear jeans on that day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse for, and never an invitation to, rape; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for distribution.