

**Introduced by Senator Evans**

**(Coauthors: Senators Block, Cannella, Correa, DeSaulnier, Fuller, Hancock, Hill, Huff, Jackson, Leno, Lieu, Monning, Padilla, Pavley, Price, Steinberg, and Yee)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Ammiano, Blumenfield, Brown, Chesbro, Fox, Frazier, Garcia, Gordon, Hall, Lowenthal, Mitchell, Mullin, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Ting, and Wilk)

March 12, 2013

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 22—Relative to Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Denim Day California.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 22, as introduced, Evans. Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Denim Day California.

This measure would designate the month of April 2013 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, would recognize April 24, 2013, 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 commit, rape.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 2011, there were 7,763 reported cases of forcible  
2 rape in California; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2011, California rape crisis centers provided  
4 direct crisis intervention services to 29,292 individuals, provided  
5 6,473 sexual assault forensic examinations, and provided  
6 community education services for more than 127,000 people; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the National Intimate Partner and  
8 Sexual Violence Survey, nearly one in five women have been the

1 victim of an attempted or completed rape and over one million  
2 women are raped a year in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence  
4 Survey reports that there are over 22 million survivors of rape  
5 throughout the United States and two million of those survivors  
6 of rape are currently living in the State of California; and

7 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men are all victims of sexual  
8 assault, and it is estimated that nearly one in two women and one  
9 in five men experience sexual violence other than rape throughout  
10 their lifetime; and

11 WHEREAS, Rape and sexual assault impact women, children,  
12 and men regardless of race, cultural background, socioeconomic  
13 background, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and

14 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men suffer multiple types  
15 of sexual violence including acquaintance rape, stranger rape,  
16 sexual assault by an intimate partner, gang rape, incest, serial rape,  
17 ritual abuse, sexual harassment, child sexual molestation,  
18 prostitution, pornography, and stalking; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to the immediate physical and emotional  
20 costs, sexual assault may also have severe and long-lasting  
21 consequences of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse,  
22 major depression, homelessness, eating disorders, and suicide; and

23 WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and  
24 Prevention has identified sexual assault as a significant, costly,  
25 and preventable health issue; and

26 WHEREAS, A coalition of rape crisis centers and their allies,  
27 known as the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, has  
28 emerged to directly confront this crisis with the cooperation of law  
29 enforcement agencies, churches, health care providers, and other  
30 helping professionals from California's diverse communities; and

31 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to support rape survivors  
32 by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect; and

33 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the compassion and  
34 dedication of the individuals involved in this effort, applaud their  
35 commitment, and increase public understanding of this significant  
36 problem; and

37 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the strength, courage,  
38 and challenges of the victims and survivors of sexual assault and  
39 their families and friends as they struggle to cope with the reality  
40 of sexual assault; and

1 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize that not all victims of  
2 sexual assault survive, either at the time of the assault or later, due  
3 to the horrific long-term trauma that sexual assault often inflicts  
4 upon victims; and

5 WHEREAS, There are rape prevention and education efforts  
6 underway throughout California to challenge the societal myths  
7 and behaviors that perpetuate rape and to engage communities in  
8 a common goal of ending sexual assault; and

9 WHEREAS, It is crucially important to hold perpetrators  
10 responsible for sexual attacks, and to prevent sexual violence at  
11 every opportunity; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1998, the Italian Supreme Court overturned the  
13 conviction of a man who sexually assaulted an 18-year-old woman  
14 after the court determined that, “because the victim wore very,  
15 very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing  
16 the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex”; and

17 WHEREAS, Enraged by the court decision, within a matter of  
18 hours the women in the Italian Parliament launched into immediate  
19 action and protested by wearing jeans to work; and

20 WHEREAS, Nations and states throughout the world have  
21 followed the lead of the Italian Parliament by designating their  
22 own “Denim Day” to raise public awareness about rape and sexual  
23 assault; and

24 WHEREAS, Harmful attitudes about rape and sexual assault  
25 allow these crimes to persist and allow survivors to be revictimized  
26 through victim-blaming attitudes and unresponsive government  
27 systems; and

28 WHEREAS, California is a national leader within the judicial,  
29 criminal justice, medical, rape crisis, and health communities in  
30 promoting victim-centered approaches to victims of crime; now,  
31 therefore, be it

32 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
33 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of  
34 April 2013 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes April 24, 2013, as  
36 “Denim Day California” and encourages everyone to wear jeans  
37 on that day to help communicate the message that there is no  
38 excuse for, and never an invitation to commit, rape.

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