

Introduced by Senator Galgiani
(Principal coauthor: Senator Block)
(Coauthors: Senators Bates, Hall, Hertzberg, Hill, Jackson, Leno,
Monning, Pavley, and Vidak)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Travis Allen, Atkins, Chu, Cooper,
Dodd, Cristina Garcia, Kim, Lackey, Low, and Olsen)

April 20, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 43—Relative to sexual assault.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 43, as introduced, Galgiani. Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Denim Day California.

This measure would designate the month of April 2015 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and would recognize April 29, 2015, as Denim Day California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 2012, California rape crisis centers provided
2 direct crisis intervention services to 30,490 individuals, provided
3 6,782 sexual assault forensic examinations, and provided
4 community education services for almost 133,000 people; and
5 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men are all victims of sexual
6 assault, and it is estimated that nearly one in two women and one
7 in five men experience sexual violence other than rape throughout
8 their lifetime; and
9 WHEREAS, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence
10 Survey reports that there are over 22 million survivors of rape
11 throughout the United States and two million of those survivors
12 of rape are currently living in the State of California; and

1 WHEREAS, Rape and sexual assault impact women, children,
2 and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and

3 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men suffer multiple types
4 of sexual violence, including acquaintance rape, stranger rape,
5 sexual assault by an intimate partner, gang rape, incest, serial rape,
6 ritual abuse, sexual harassment, child sexual molestation,
7 prostitution, pornography, and stalking; and

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

12 WHEREAS, The federal Centers for Disease Control and
13 Prevention have identified sexual assault as a significant, costly,
14 and preventable health issue; and

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

20 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to support all rape survivors
21 by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect; and

22 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the compassion and
23 dedication of the individuals involved in this effort, applaud their
24 commitment, and increase public understanding of this significant
25 problem; and

26 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the strength, courage,
27 and challenges of the victims and survivors of sexual assault and
28 their families and friends as they struggle to cope with the reality
29 of sexual assault; and

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

34 WHEREAS, There are rape prevention and education efforts
35 underway throughout California to challenge the societal myths
36 and behaviors that perpetuate rape and to engage communities in
37 a common goal of ending sexual assault; and

38 WHEREAS, It is crucially important to hold perpetrators
39 responsible for sexual attacks, and to prevent sexual violence at
40 every opportunity; and

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

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

9 WHEREAS, Nations and states throughout the world have
10 followed the lead of the Italian Parliament by designating their
11 own “Denim Day” to raise public awareness about rape and sexual
12 assault; and

13 WHEREAS, Harmful attitudes about rape and sexual assault
14 allow these crimes to persist and allow survivors to be revictimized
15 through victim-blaming attitudes and unresponsive government
16 systems; and

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

21 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
22 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of
23 April 2015 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be it further

24 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes April 29, 2015, as
25 Denim Day California and encourages everyone to wear jeans on
26 that day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse
27 for, and never an invitation to commit, rape; and be it further

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