

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 123

Introduced by Senator Jackson

(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Atkins)

(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Block, Cannella, Fuller, Galgiani, Glazer, Hall, Hertzberg, Hill, Leno, Leyva, Monning, Pavley, and Wieckowski)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Baker, Brown, Chang, Chávez, Dodd, Cristina Garcia, Gonzalez, Gordon, Hadley, Kim, Lackey, Lopez, Low, Mathis, Olsen, Rodriguez, and Salas)

March 30, 2016

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 123—Relative to sexual assault.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 123, as amended, Jackson. Sexual Assault Awareness Month: Denim Day California.

This measure would designate the month of April 2016 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and would recognize April 27, 2016, as Denim Day California.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In 2014, California rape crisis centers provided
2 direct crisis intervention services to 31,781 individuals, provided
3 7,389 sexual assault forensic examinations, and provided
4 community education services for almost 20,000 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

1 WHEREAS, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence
2 Survey reports that there are over 22 million survivors of rape
3 throughout the United States and 2 million of those *rape* survivors
4 of ~~rape~~ are currently living in the State of California; and
5 WHEREAS, Rape and sexual assault impact women, children,
6 and men of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds; and
7 WHEREAS, Women, children, and men suffer multiple types
8 of sexual violence, including acquaintance rape, stranger rape,
9 sexual assault by an intimate partner, gang rape, incest, serial rape,
10 ritual abuse, sexual harassment, child sexual molestation,
11 prostitution, pornography, and stalking; and
12 WHEREAS, Thousands of the most vulnerable children in our
13 state are being sexually exploited and assaulted for commercial
14 gain, and from 2011 to 2013, California’s nine human trafficking
15 task forces identified 1,277 victims, 72 percent of whom are from
16 the United States; and
17 WHEREAS, According to the FBI, three of the nation’s 13 High
18 Intensity Child Prostitution areas are located in California; 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 posttraumatic 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, health care providers, institutions of higher
30 education, and other allied professionals from California’s diverse
31 communities; and
32 WHEREAS, It is our responsibility to support all rape survivors
33 by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect; and
34 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the compassion and
35 dedication of the individuals involved in this effort, applaud their
36 commitment, and increase public understanding of this significant
37 problem; and
38 WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the strength, courage,
39 and challenges of the victims and survivors of sexual assault and

1 their families and friends as they struggle to cope with the reality
2 of sexual assault; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature designates the month of
36 April 2016 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes April 27, 2016, as
38 Denim Day California and encourages everyone to wear jeans on
39 that day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse
40 for and never an invitation to commit, rape; and be it further

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

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