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LEGISLATORS TO OBSERVE DENIM DAY AT STATE CAPITOL APRIL 27th

CALCASA and state legislators pledge to end sexual violence

Sacramento, Calif. – April 27, 2016 – Legislators, public officials, advocates and volunteers will gather on the West Steps of the State Capitol in recognition of Denim Day California.

Denim Day is named for a 1999 Italian Supreme Court case, in which a rape conviction was overturned because the Justices felt that, since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped her rapist remove her jeans, thereby implying consent. The following day, the women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim.

Denim Day has been recognized in California for the past 15 years and the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) has observed Denim Day at the State Capitol since 2001. Wearing jeans on Denim Day has become a symbol of protest against the destructive attitudes about sexual assault.

On Denim Day, we recognize that there is no excuse and never an invitation for sexual violence. We recognize the resiliency of survivors and we honor the compassion and dedication of those who work tirelessly to end sexual assault,” said Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara). Jackson authored Senate Concurrent Resolution 123 (SCR 123), which recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and designates April 27, 2016 as Denim Day in California. The goal of SCR 123 is to raise awareness about sexual assault and challenge the systematic problems that keep victims silent and insulate perpetrators from prosecution.

“Denim Day is an opportunity during Sexual Assault Awareness Month to recognize the valuable work that legislators, advocates, systems, and institutions are doing to support survivors of sexual assault,” said Sandra Henriquez, CALCASA Executive Director. “Together, we can end sexual violence and change our culture that perpetuates negative stereotypes about sexual assault.”

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CALCASA is the only statewide organization in California whose sole purpose is to promote public policy, advocacy, training and technical assistance on the issue of sexual assault. CALCASA convenes statewide and national training conferences and its primary membership is composed of the 84 rape crisis centers and rape prevention programs in California. For more information, visit www.calcasa.org.