

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1021

By: Branham

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8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Resolution proclaiming the month of April as Sexual
10 Assault Awareness Month and Wednesday, April 24,
2019, as Denim Day.

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13 WHEREAS, the United States Government has declared April as
14 Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the organization known as Peace
15 Over Violence has declared April 24, 2019, as Denim Day; and

16 WHEREAS, both events are intended to draw attention to the fact
17 that sexual violence remains a serious issue in our society; and

18 WHEREAS, harmful attitudes about all forms of sexual violence
19 allow these issues to persist and allow victims and survivors of
20 sexual violence to be revictimized; and

21 WHEREAS, sexual harassment is part of a continuum of violence
22 whose damaging effects are felt throughout our culture; and

23 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Denim Day were also
24 instituted to call attention to misconceptions and misinformation

1 about sexual violence and the problem that many people in our
2 society remain disturbingly uninformed with respect to issues of
3 sexual harassment, assault, abuse and rape; and

4 WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is a time to draw
5 attention to the crime of sexual assault which can happen to anyone
6 regardless of gender, race, education, religion, sexual orientation
7 or economic class; and

8 WHEREAS, youth under eighteen (18) years of age account for
9 about forty-four percent (44%) of all reported sexual assaults, at
10 least twenty-five percent (25%) of women experience sexual
11 harassment in the workplace and about seventy-five percent (75%) of
12 sexual harassment victims experience retaliation when he or she
13 reports it; and

14 WHEREAS, with proper education on the matter and comprehensive
15 prevention projects, sexual violence and its unfair and traumatizing
16 effects are preventable; and

17 WHEREAS, members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives
18 strongly support the efforts of Peace Over Violence and the Young
19 Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Oklahoma City to educate
20 persons in our state about the true impact of sexual harassment,
21 abuse, assault and rape in Oklahoma.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
23 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 57TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

24

1 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives does hereby proclaim
2 the month of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

3 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives does hereby designate
4 April 24, 2019, as Denim Day and urges everyone to wear jeans on
5 this day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse and
6 there is never an invitation to harass, abuse, assault or rape.

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8 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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