

# PROCLAMATION

## *National Sexual Assault Awareness Month*

**WHEREAS**, Sexual violence happens to people of all ages, races, genders, sexual orientations, religions, abilities, professions, incomes, and ethnicities. It happens every day in our communities, schools, and workplaces; and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual violence is a social justice issue. All people have a basic right to be respected. People who commit violence take away that right. It can impact a person's trust and feeling of safety; and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual violence is an affront to human dignity and a crime no matter where it occurs; and

**WHEREAS**, Nearly one in five women and one in seventy-one men will be a victim of sexual assault; and

**WHEREAS**, During National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we recommit ourselves not only to lifting the veil of secrecy and shame surrounding sexual violence, but also to raising awareness, expanding support for victims, and strengthening our response; and

**WHEREAS**, We must work to provide necessary resources to victims of every circumstance, including medical attention, mental health services, relocation and housing assistance, and advocacy during legal proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, As we continue to confront this crime, let us reaffirm our dedication to take action and stop abuse before it starts. Together, we can increase awareness about sexual violence, decrease its frequency, punish offenders, help victims, and heal lives; now, therefore, be it

**PROCLAIMED**, By the Washoe County Board of Commissioners that April 2015 is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the Board urges all citizens to support survivors of sexual assault and work together to prevent these crimes in our community.

**ADOPTED** this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015.

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Martha Berkgigler, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

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