

Wyoming Office of the Governor - Dave Freudenthal

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month is intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence remains an intolerable violent crime with public health implications for every citizen of Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault can lead to long term health problems including chronic pain and sexually transmitted diseases. It can also cause severe emotional harm that may be even more painful than the assault itself; and

WHEREAS, victims need an array of services to heal from trauma of sexual assault, including crisis intervention, 24 hour sexual assault hot lines, medical and criminal justice accompaniment, advocacy and counseling; and

WHEREAS, victim service providers are essential to this effort and work tirelessly to help victims cope with the trauma of sexual assault and transition from "victim" to "survivor;" and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) can ensure that victims are treated with requisite sensitivity and that critical evidence is collected to facilitate a successful prosecution; and

WHEREAS, with leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in Wyoming through prevention education and increased awareness; and

WHEREAS, the Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and the Wyoming Division of Victim Services are committed to eliminating sexual violence through prevention and community action across Wyoming and promoting equality, safety and respect among all individuals; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming strongly supports the dedicated efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DAVE FREUDENTHAL, GOVERNOR, do hereby proclaim April 2010 as

"SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH"

in Wyoming and encourage citizens to pull their resources and skills to sustain services for victims of sexual violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 25th day of March, 2010.

Governor Dave Freudenthal • State Capitol, 200 West 24th Street • Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010 • 307-777-7434