

STATE OF DELAWARE



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Whereas, sexual violence is widespread, is preventable, and has physical, mental, and emotional health and financial implications for every citizen in Delaware; and

Whereas, in the United States, nearly one out of every four women and one out of every six men will experience sexual violence prior to their eighteenth birthday, with college-age individuals being four times more likely to have to deal with rape than non-college individuals of the same age; and

Whereas, 137 rapes were reported in Delaware in 2015, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report; and

Whereas, the Delaware Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System reports that the self-reported prevalence of rape is about three times higher than that reported by police, and

Whereas, prevention and education are effective in reducing the rate of sexual assault and rape, as according to the U.S. Department of Justice, the number of reported sexual assaults declined 63 percent between 1993 and 2015; and

Whereas, the members of the Sexual Assault Network of Delaware encourage everyone to report all acts of violence, however small;

**Now, Therefore, We, John Carney, Governor,
and Bethany Hall-Long, Lieutenant Governor,
do hereby declare April 2017**

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Delaware, and encourage all Delawareans to actively engage in conversations about sexual violence, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society should prevent violence to improve our culture.



John C. Carney

John C. Carney
Governor

Bethany A. Hall-Long

Bethany Hall-Long
Lieutenant Governor

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