

Shasta County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2017

WHEREAS, sexual assault is an intolerable violent crime with public health implications for every person in Shasta County as a victim or as a family member, significant other, neighbor, or co-worker of a victim/survivor; and

WHEREAS, rape, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community, one in six women and 1 in 33 men will be a victim of sexual assault at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience sexual assault before the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and youth ages 12 through 17 are 2.5 times as likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, nationally, one in four college women will be sexually assaulted during her academic career and 21 percent to 53 percent of college students have experienced at least one incident of dating violence; and

WHEREAS, rape is one of the most underreported crimes, with victims of sexual violence facing both immediate and long-term psychological consequences such as fear, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, we must work together with the staff and volunteers of sexual assault programs in Shasta County to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions; and

WHEREAS, when we as a community “Start By Believing” victims of sexual assault, victims are more likely to report their victimization to law enforcement and seek supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the first step is increasing education, awareness, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, citizens are encouraged to say “NO MORE” to sexual violence and take action to create one safe place for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Shasta hereby proclaim April 2017 as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month** in Shasta County and join advocates in our County in taking action to prevent sexual violence.

David A. Kehoe, Chairman

March 28, 2017

Date