

PROCLAMATION

MISSOULA COUNTY, THE CITY OF MISSOULA, THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA AND THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Action Month (SAAM) calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health and safety implications for the city and county of Missoula and beyond; and

WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment harm our community, our friends and our families. Studies show one in six women and one in 33 men have experienced completed or attempted rape; one in nine girls and one in 53 boys experience child sexual abuse at the hands of an adult; and 13% of all college students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence or incapacitation (graduate and undergraduate students); and

WHEREAS, people of color, especially Native American women, experience violence, unwanted sexual contact or abuse at a much higher rate than other groups; and

WHEREAS, statistics can tell us how many people are harmed, but talking to a survivor reveals the true impact of this violence: loss of safety and trust, and sometimes even the loss of hope; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this month is not merely awareness, but prevention of sexual harassment, abuse and assault; and

WHEREAS, prevention means stopping sexual violence before it happens by changing norms that allow it to exist in the first place, ranging from attitudes, values and behaviors to laws, institutions and social norms; and

WHEREAS, prevention is everyone's job, and all of us can help create safe environments by intervening to stop behavior, promoting healthy attitudes and relationships, and believing survivors and connecting them to resources; and

WHEREAS, we strongly support the efforts of national, state and local sexual assault prevention and response programs in their efforts to create safe and healthy communities.

NOW THEREFORE, we, Jordan Hess, mayor of the City of Missoula; Josh Slotnick, Juanita Vero and Dave Strohmaier, Missoula County commissioners; Seth Bodnar, president of the University of Montana, and Elizabeth Bowles, president of the Associated Students of the University of Montana, do hereby join the Student Advocacy Resource Center of the University of Montana, the YWCA of Missoula, Project Beacon of All Nations Health Center, First Step at Providence St. Patrick Hospital, the Make Your Move! Project of the Missoula City-County Health Department, law enforcement agencies including the Missoula Police Department, Missoula County Sheriff's Office and UM Police Department; the Missoula County Community Justice Department, the Special Victims Unit of the Missoula County Attorney's Office, the City Attorney's Office and communities across the country in playing an active role to prevent sexual violence. Along with the United States government and the State of Montana, we do hereby proclaim April 2023 as **SEXUAL ASSAULT ACTION MONTH** in the City of Missoula and Missoula County.


CITY OF MISSOULA


Jordan Hess, Mayor

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA


Seth Bodnar, President

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA


Elizabeth Bowles, President

MISSOULA COUNTY


Josh Slotnick, Commissioner


David Strohmaier, Commissioner


Juanita Vero, Commissioner

