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PROCLAMATION DENIM DAY

WHEREAS, the month of April is national Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which calls attention to widespread sexual harassment and violence that harms our community; and

WHEREAS, every 73 seconds, someone in America is sexually assaulted – more than 1-in-3 women and nearly 1-in-4 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, 1-in-4 girls and 1-in-13 boys experience sexual abuse in childhood; and

WHEREAS, Denim Day was started in 1999 as a grassroots protest against an Italian Supreme Court decision in which a sexual assault conviction was overturned because the court said the victim, who was wearing tight jeans, implied consent at the time of the her attack; and

WHEREAS, now a worldwide movement, Denim Day encourages everyone to stand in solidarity with survivors of sexual violence and to speak up when hearing comments that blame victims or make light of sexual harassment and violence; and

WHEREAS, together, when we change how we think and talk about sexual violence, we can create a culture of respect, equality and safety for everyone; and

WHEREAS, with the proper education about comprehensive prevention projects about sexual violence, including sexual trafficking, sexual violence and its traumatizing effects are preventable; and

WHEREAS, Orange County Public Schools strongly supports the Victims Service Center of Central Florida and its efforts to heal victims, educate and train the community, and recognize and stop sexual violence before it happens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of County does hereby proclaim Wednesday, April 28, 2021, as Denim Day in Orange County Public Schools and urges all employees and students to wear jeans on this day to help spread awareness about the physical and emotional trauma that accompanies sexual assault and violence, and to show our support for survivors in our community.

DENIM DAY

Teresa Jacobs, Chair
School Board of Orange County

Barbara M. Jenkins, Superintendent
Orange County Public Schools