

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month campaign is "I Ask," encouraging and empowering everyone to ask for consent, listen, and accept answers without pressure or coercion, no matter the scenario; the goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence is widespread and impacts thousands of people in communities across North Carolina; according to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, one in five North Carolina women has been sexually assaulted at some point in her life; and

WHEREAS, a 2017 study by the Centers for Disease Control calculated the cost of sexual violence over a lifetime at \$122,461 per victim, taking into account the criminal justice costs, property loss or damage, lost work productivity, and short- and long-term physical and mental health treatment for victims; and

WHEREAS, according to the North Carolina Council for Women and Youth Involvement, from July 2017 – June 2018, North Carolina rape crisis centers served 10,780 individuals, including 3,040 children under the age of 18, and received 25,707 hotline calls; and

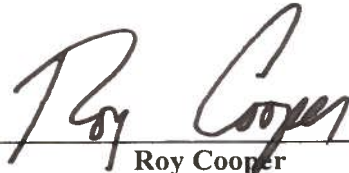
WHEREAS, people who are a part of marginalized communities or hold marginalized identities often are at higher risk for experiencing sexual violence and have more limited access to services that will support meaningful pathways to healing and justice; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault and rape crisis advocates across our state remain committed to ending sexual violence by continuing to be allies in all anti-oppression movements, realizing that we cannot truly end sexual violence without also ending all forms of oppression; and

WHEREAS, our voices have power and should be used to support survivors and end sexual violence; individuals, advocates, allies, and those in a position to facilitate change at the highest levels can use their voices to show their support for survivors, stand up to victim blaming and discrimination, shut down jokes about sexual assault, correct harmful misconceptions, promote everyday consent, and practice healthy communication with children;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim April, 2019, as "SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.