



*Governor's Mansion
Carson City, Nevada*

Fellow Nevadan,

As you may be aware, an important part of my life focuses on my work as a program director with the Children's Cabinet in Reno. As the FYI (Family and Youth Intervention) Program Director at the Children's Cabinet, I work closely with children and youth to reduce school truancy, evaluate mental health issues, support homeless, runaway and abused children and prevent family violence.

I work with teens and families who are dealing with a range of issues every day. One issue I hear far too much about is sexual assault. In fact, one in three teens experience physical or sexual abuse while dating; every 2 minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted, according to Peace Over Violence. According to the same group, 82.8 percent of rapes committed by an intimate are not reported to the police and around the world, at least 1 in every 3 women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Most often the abuser is a member of her own family.

It's time ... to get involved.

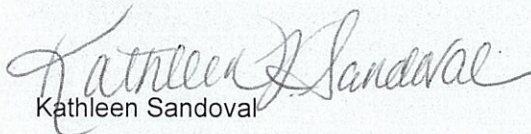
That simple but powerful phrase is the slogan for National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, occurring this month – and I don't think it could be any more appropriate. We know how to help stop sexual assault. We just have to work together.

In that spirit, I am asking you to join Brian and me in wearing denim to raise awareness of sexual assault on Denim Day, Wednesday, April 27th. Denim Day is part of a national movement to raise awareness of sexual assault; the "fashion statement as social statement" stems from a 1999 incident in Italy in which a young woman was said to share blame for her assault because of her tight jeans. Italian elected officials responded by wearing jeans in protest and denim has since become a symbol of the need to understand assault issues. The Governor's Office will be participating, as will my coworkers at the Children's Cabinet in Reno. Imagine the opportunity for heightened awareness if elected officials, constitutional officers, local school districts, and you and your friends joined us. What if we all wore denim on one day? What a picture we could paint!

I'm asking you to get involved. Take this one day and join us in wearing denim to help raise awareness. Together, we can speak for all of those who have been assaulted and those who haven't, or can't, speak of their assault.

For more information, visit denimdayinla.org or call the Governor's Office.

Thank you,


Kathleen Sandoval