

For Recording Stamp Only

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON**

A Proclamation Declaring April 2016 to be Sexual Abuse Awareness Month

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a serious crime that is committed against one in six people and doesn't discriminate based on age, race, gender, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of all victims are under the age of 18, 90 percent are women, and those on the margins face even higher rates of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of sexual assault survivors knew their attacker and rape is most often perpetrated by a family member, friend, or acquaintance; and

WHEREAS, survivors of sexual assault are more likely to experience depression and post-traumatic stress disorder, to abuse drugs and alcohol, and to consider suicide; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault has a greater economic impact than any other crime, costing the United States \$127 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, survivors and potential future victims of sexual assault are doctors and lawyers, bank tellers and baristas, mothers and children; and

WHEREAS, these traumatic assaults happen not only in dark alleys, but also in schools, churches, doctor's offices, workplaces, and homes—all places where we expect, and deserve, to be safe; and

WHEREAS, our most powerful tool for prevention is to come together as a community, alongside advocacy organizations like Saving Grace, and break the silence and shame around sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, the people of Deschutes County value safety, respect, and freedom from violence; and

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month provides an opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing sexual assault and supporting survivors in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Deschutes County Commission proclaims the month of April as SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH in Deschutes County and urge our citizens to work together to prevent sexual assault and promote the value of a community free from violence.

DATED this 6th Day of April 2016 by the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners.

ALAN UNGER, Chair

TAMMY BANEY, Vice Chair

ANTHONY DEBONE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Recording Secretary