

THURSTON COUNTY

Proclamation

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

WHEREAS, sexual assault is a broad term that includes a range of harassment, assault, trafficking, and other violent or unwanted sexual experiences; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence is a widespread, serious and preventable public health problem that affects millions of people each year including children, teens, adults, and seniors in our community; and

WHEREAS, in Thurston County, by their senior year in high school, one in three girls and one in seven boys have been forced into unwanted sexual contact; and

WHEREAS, on campus, one in five women and one in seven men are sexually assaulted during their time in college; and

WHEREAS, one in five women and one in seventy-one men will be raped during their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience sexual assault before they turn 18; and

WHEREAS, people of color and marginalized members of our community are significantly impacted by sexual violence with nationally half of Native American women, half of African-American women, half of transgender people and a disproportionate number of LGBTQ people experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and educate communities on how to prevent it through the "I Ask" consent campaign, which champions the power of asking for consent — whether it be asking to hold someone's hand, asking permission to share personal information with others, or asking if a partner is interested in sex; and

WHEREAS, our community promotes sexual violence prevention efforts and healing services for survivors of sexual assault by supporting community partners and organizations who do this work; and

WHEREAS, consent is a clear, concrete example of what it takes to end sexual harassment, abuse, and assault.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Health hereby proclaims **April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month** in Thurston County, and urges all citizens to put consent into practice. "I Ask" is the statement by which individuals will demonstrate that asking for consent is a healthy, normal, and necessary part of everyday interactions.

Adopted this ninth day of April, 2019

BOARD OF HEALTH




