

PROCLAMATION
National Sexual Assault Awareness Month
April 1st- 30th, 2022

WHEREAS, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month—a time to draw attention to the prevalence of sexual assault and educate individuals and communities about how to prevent it. Sexual harassment, abuse, and assault are widespread problems. In the United States alone, nearly one in five women and one in 67 men have been raped at some time in their lives (Smith et al., 2017), and one in four girls and one in twenty boys is sexually abused by the age of 17 (Finkelhor et al., 2014).

WHEREAS, sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including in online spaces. Now more than ever, screens and technology connect us with others—but for too long, harassment, cyberbullying, and sexual abuse have been seen as unavoidable behaviors online.

WHEREAS, each of us has the power to change that. Together, we can make a difference to build inclusive, safe, and respectful communities that thrive online and offline.

WHEREAS, 2022 marks the twenty-first anniversary of SAAM, and the theme of this year's campaign is "Building Safe Online Spaces Together." We can build online communities free from sexual harassment, abuse, and assault by practicing digital consent, intervening when we see harmful behaviors, and promoting online communities that value inclusion, safety, and respect.

WHEREAS, the Skamania County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCDVSA) is committed to empowering and supporting victims/survivors of sexual violence, and to the elimination of all forms of sexual violence through prevention education and community awareness; and

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Board of Commissioners of Skamania County join Skamania County Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and advocates and communities across the country in proclaiming that we can build safe online spaces together! We are committed to eliminating sexual violence and hereby proclaim the month of April as

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in Skamania County, and we urge all individuals and communities to join us in this special observance.

Signed this 12th day of April, 2022.


Richard Mahar
Commissioner


T.W. Lannen
Commissioner


Robert Hamlin
Commissioner