



SENATE RESOLUTION 23-006

BY SENATOR(S) Marchman, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Cutter, Exum, Fields, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Kolker, Moreno, Mullica, Priola, Roberts, Rodriguez, Sullivan, Zenzinger.

CONCERNING MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS MONTH.

WHEREAS, Sexual assault in the United States of America is a pervasive and devastating issue. It impacts every corner of our society, and it is inexcusable at any time, place, or circumstance; and

WHEREAS, Most sexual assaults go unreported, and the victims of those assaults often go untreated and are left feeling trapped; and

WHEREAS, Military service members in the United States Department of Defense, as well as service members in the United States Department of Homeland Security, have experienced and continue to experience sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, In August 2022, the United States Department of Defense reported that 8.4 percent of active duty women indicated an incident of unwanted sexual contact during the year prior to the survey. That 8.4 percent represents approximately 19,466 women; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense also reported that 1.5 percent of active duty men indicated an incident of unwanted sexual contact during the year prior to the survey. That 1.5 percent represents approximately 16,617 men; and

WHEREAS, Cadets at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs reported 52 incidents of unwanted sexual contact

during the 2021-22 school year, and a number of reports show increasing incidents of sexual assault and other unwanted sexual contact at military academies across the country; and

WHEREAS, Such behavior is intolerable, especially among those for whom a strict moral code and a cohesive unit are of the utmost importance. Both are adversely impacted by any such egregious acts upon fellow service members; and

WHEREAS, We commend survivors for their perseverance and celebrate the successes many have had despite their traumatic experiences; and

WHEREAS, Some survivors have established outreach networks to engage with and support other survivors, and some have taken up the mantle of advocating for survivors at the highest levels of both the military and the government; and

WHEREAS, Still others face their daily lives head-on and persevere with grit and determination, carrying out their daily responsibilities and service; and

WHEREAS, We acknowledge April 2023 as Military Sexual Assault Survivors Month; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

That we, the members of the Colorado Senate, acknowledge April 2023 as Military Sexual Assault Survivors Month in respectful recognition of the struggles faced by thousands of military sexual assault survivors.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent to the Colorado National Guard Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, the Air Force Academy, Protect Our Defenders, and Hope After MST.

Steve Fenberg
PRESIDENT OF
THE SENATE

Cindi L. Markwell
SECRETARY OF
THE SENATE