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## Office of the Governor

April 22, 2013

Fellow Nevadan :

As you may be aware, since 2011, the State of Nevada has participated in Denim Day to raise awareness of sexual assault. I am writing today to ask you to again join me in wearing denim on Wednesday, April 24th as part of Denim Day nationwide. 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.

As the Program Director at the Children's Cabinet in Reno, 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.

According to Peace Over Violence, one in three teens experience physical or sexual abuse while dating and every 2 minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted. 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.

I know the Governor frequently says that by working together, we can accomplish great things. I couldn't agree more. One by one, we can take steps to band together and raise awareness of sexual assault.

It is in this spirit that I am asking you to join the Governor and me in wearing denim to raise awareness of sexual assault on Denim Day, Wednesday, April 24th. The Governor's Office will be participating, as will my coworkers at the Children's Cabinet throughout the state. I'm hopeful elected officials, constitutional officers, members of the state Legislature and local school districts will join us. I am confident that together, we can bring heightened awareness to

this important issue.

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 <http://denimdayusa.org> or call the Governor's Office.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen J. Sandoval". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Sandoval  
First Lady

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