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Testimony on behalf of the
New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault
on AR 101/ SR 47,
Resolution proclaiming Denim Day to be
April 28th
On June 16, 2009

Testimony submitted by,
Jennifer Nix
Director of Government and Policy Affairs
NJCASA

Thank you for hearing Assembly Resolution 101/ Senate Resolution 47 proclaiming April 28th to be Denim Day.

Denim day started in Italy after the Italian Supreme Court found that a survivor of sexual assault must have consented to the rape because she was wearing tight jeans and must have had to help the assailant take the jeans off. Italian women members of Parliament were so outraged by this finding that they protested the ruling by wearing jeans to Parliament. Their message was that a sexual assault does not have to be a violent, gun to the head act to be an assault without consent, and that no one deserves to be raped.

In New Jersey, the county based sexual violence programs have used Denim Day as a day to raise awareness on sexual violence. New Jersey's 21 sexual violence programs help over 4200 survivors a year on hotlines, counseling visits, and accompaniments to police stations, hospitals and court. They are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week so that no one has to face the aftermath of an assault alone.

In addition to helping survivors of sexual violence and their family and friends, NJ's sexual violence programs are actively working to prevent sexual violence by changing social norms around women and sexual violence.

Thank you again for hearing this resolution. We look forward to seeing you at events in your district next April.

STATEWIDE SEXUAL VIOLENCE HOTLINE **1.800.601.7200**