

**BY:** Senator PERSAUD

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 29, 2026, as Denim Day in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** Sexual violence is a horrific and widespread act of crime that is broadly defined as any unwanted sexual contact, including rapes, verbal and physical assault, and harassment; and

**WHEREAS,** Victims of sexual violence are often blamed for having contributed or led to the perpetration of violence through their behavior or physical appearance; and

**WHEREAS,** In 1999, the Italian Supreme Court overturned the conviction of a man accused of rape on the grounds that the victim must have helped her rapist remove her tight-fitting jeans, thereby implying consent; and

**WHEREAS,** This ruling infuriated the Italian public, leading women to wear denim to work the day after the conviction; and

**WHEREAS,** In April of 1999, Patricia Giggans, the Executive Director of Peace Over Violence, established Denim Day in Los Angeles, California, in conjunction with Sexual Assault Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS,** Since 1999, the event has grown into a worldwide movement, occurring annually in 50 states and over 119 countries and including female, male and LGBTQ participants; and

**WHEREAS,** Through the Scarsdale Coalition on Family Violence's tireless efforts, Denim Day will take place on, April 29, 2026, in towns and cities throughout Westchester County and New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Children and adolescents are at high-risk for being victims of sexual violence, with half of female rape victims reporting experiencing their first rape before 18, and over a quarter of male rape victims raped for the first time before the age of 10; and

**WHEREAS,** Over 15,000 people with developmental disabilities are raped each year in the United States, and over 20,000 more estimated to have experienced sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS,** It is estimated that over 50% of LGBTQ individuals have experienced at least one incidence of sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS,** Awareness campaigns such as Denim Day have done much to empower victims and their loved ones, and to educate potential victims of the dangers of sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS,** Though much progress has been made in the fight against sexual violence, the fact that almost 50% of women and 20% of men have

been or will be victims of sexual violence highlights continued need for advocacy; and

**WHEREAS,** This Legislative Body strongly supports the efforts of the Scarsdale Coalition on Family Violence to educate persons in our community about the true impact of rape and sexual assault in not only Westchester County, but the entire State of New York; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim April 29, 2026, as Denim Day in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York; and the Scarsdale Coalition on Family Violence.