

**PROCLAMATION BY THE KENT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community; and

WHEREAS, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm our community, and statistics show one in five women and one in 71 men will be raped at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, child sexual abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that one in six boys and one in four girls will experience a sexual assault before the age 18; and

WHEREAS, young people experience heightened rates of sexual violence, and youth ages 12-17 were 2.5 times as likely to be victims of rape or sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, on campus, one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted during their time in college; and

WHEREAS, we must work together to educate our community about sexual violence prevention, **believing and** supporting survivors, and speaking out against harmful attitudes and actions; and

WHEREAS, prevention is possible when everyone gets involved. The first step is increasing education, awareness, and community involvement. It is time for all of us to take action to create a safer environment for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kent County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim April as ***Sexual Assault Awareness Month***, and each day of the year is an opportunity to create change for the future.

James R. Saalfeld, Chair
Kent County
Board of Commissioners

Shana Shroll, Vice-Chair
Kent County
Board of Commissioners