

GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA
★
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Arizona shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and
WHEREAS, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men have been raped in their lifetime; and 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men will experience unwanted sexual contact; and
WHEREAS, current estimates suggest no more than 20 percent of sexual assaults will be reported to law enforcement and less than 3 percent will result in the conviction and incarceration of the perpetrator; and
WHEREAS, research documents that victims are far more likely to disclose their sexual assault to a friend or family member, and when these loved ones respond with doubt, shame, or blame, victims suffer additional negative effects on their physical and psychological well-being; and
WHEREAS, the *Start by Believing* public awareness campaign and the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women is designed to improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals, so they can help victims to access supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system; and
WHEREAS, through collaborative efforts, individuals, agencies, government, organizations and communities can work together to prevent sexual assault and support victims and survivors.
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim April 6, 2016 as

START BY BELIEVING DAY



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this sixth day of April in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Fortieth.

ATTEST:

Michelle Reagan

SECRETARY OF STATE