Survivors and Allies “Wrap” the Capitol to Honor Survivors of Sexual Violence for the 3rd Year

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Madison, WI – As Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), comes to a close, survivors of sexual assault, advocates, activists, and allies will mark the occasion on Saturday with a trio of events culminating in the third annual “Wrap Around the Capitol.” Participants will join other community members at the North Hamilton Street entrance to connect strips of denim and encircle the Capitol in a powerful show of solidarity. This event is a project of the Survivors & Allies Task Force (SATF), organized through the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA) in conjunction with state and local partners.

Why denim? As a symbolic gesture – an Italian court overturned a rape conviction due to the judges not believing that the victim had not consented to sexual contact since, in their opinion, her jeans were so tight the perpetrator could not have gotten them off without her assistance. This sounds outrageous, yet in Italy, and all over the world, women and men who are victims of sexual assault continue to be disbelieved and accused of causing the assault due to their behavior… or fashion sense. This has to stop.

“We decided we wanted to go beyond talking and do something visible, tangible, and public,” explained Lisa Pentermann, a WCASA Board Member and member of the Survivors & Allies group. “Sexual violence is a pervasive problem impacting individuals and communities across Wisconsin. This event allows us to show support for survivors and take a stand against sexual violence,” added Pennie Meyers, Executive Director at WCASA.

WCASA invites advocates, allies, supporters, and members from the community at large to join them on April 26th at 2:00pm at the North Hamilton Street Capitol entrance to stand against sexual violence in our community.

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