

Denis Law
Mayor

City of
Renton



Mayor's Office

January 27, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

Did you know that one out of three girls, one out of five boys, and 23% of women are the victims of sexual assault? Every time I hear these staggering statistics, I'm dismayed at the lack of public awareness of this crisis. An estimated 60% of victims of sexual assault go unreported.

What's really shocking is that these statistics mean that, whether I know it or not, I have friends and possibly family members who are victims. It's troubling that despite all the information we have, we still can't seem to talk about this epidemic problem.

I know we can't put an end to a problem that we can't talk about.

That's why I'm inviting you to join me and other mayors in a pledge to promote Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in your city in April. Through SAAM we can provide our citizens some tools to reduce the risk of abuse and assault, increase public awareness, and provide valuable resources for victims and their families.

What you pledge to do is up to you and your city. It could be as simple as signing a resolution recognizing April 2016 as Sexual Assault Awareness month. Or you could plan activities in your city for the month of April to bring awareness to this critical issue. The King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KSARC) is a valuable source of data and resources, and can help you to develop tools to bring awareness in your community.

If all 36 of the mayors in the Sound Cities Association take the pledge and do our part to promote SAAM, we can make a meaningful difference. I hope you will join me and other mayors including Mayor Amy Walen of Kirkland, Mayor Nancy Backus of Auburn, Mayor Suzette Cooke of Kent, and Mayor Jim Ferrell of Federal Way in making this pledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denis Law".

Denis Law
Mayor