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Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ (2026)

**WHEREAS**, the United States has declared April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" and the last Wednesday of each April as "Denim Day"; and

**WHEREAS**, both events are intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence remains a serious issue in our society; and

**WHEREAS** harmful attitudes about all forms of sexual violence allow these issues to persist and allow victims/survivors to be re-victimized; and

**WHEREAS** sexual harassment is part of a continuum of violence whose damaging effects are felt throughout our culture; and

**WHEREAS** "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" and "Denim Day" were also instituted to call attention to misconceptions and misinformation about sexual violence, and the problem that many in society remain disturbingly uninformed with respect to issues of sexual harassment, assault, abuse, and rape; and

**WHEREAS** every 68 seconds, someone in America is sexually assaulted, approximately 1 out of 4 women are raped during their lifetime and youth under 18 account for about 44% of all reported, at least 25% of women experience sexual harassment in the workplace, and about 75% of harassment victims experience retaliation when they reported it; and

**WHEREAS** Indigenous Victims suffer disproportionately higher rates of sexual violence than any other group; and

**WHEREAS** with proper education on the matter and comprehensive prevention projects, sexual violence and its traumatizing effects are preventable; and

**WHEREAS** the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians tribal leadership strongly support the efforts of the EBCI DV/SA Program to educate persons in our community about the true impact of sexual harassment, abuse, assault, and rape in our EBCI communities,

**WHEREAS** recognizing a "Denim Day" for EBCI will bring heightened awareness and urge everyone to wear jeans on that day to help communicate the message that there is no excuse and never an invitation to harass, abuse, assault, and/or rape.

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2 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Tribal Council of the Eastern Band of  
3 Cherokee Indians in Council assembled at which a quorum is present does hereby proclaim **the**  
4 **last Wednesday in April** as "Denim Day," to promote awareness and education on the impacts  
5 of sexual harassment, abuse, assault, and rape in our communities.

6 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be carried out by  
7 the Principal Chief through the EBCI Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program.  
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9 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this resolution shall become effective upon ratification by  
10 the Principal Chief.  
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15 Submitted by:  
16 Billie Jo Rich on behalf of the EBCI Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program.