

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLVILLE,
WASHINGTON, SUPPORTING THE COLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
"START BY BELIEVING" PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

WHEREAS, Colville School District shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

WHEREAS, the Colville School District works collaboratively with Rural Resources Victim Services to support students and families who are victims of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, current estimates suggest no more than twenty (20) percent of sexual assaults will be reported to law enforcement and less than three (3) percent will result in the conviction and incarceration of the perpetrator; and

WHEREAS, research documents that victims are for 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 (a program of End Violence Against Women International) is designed to improve the response of friends, family members, and community professionals, so they can help victims to access supportive resource and engage the criminal justice system.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the City Council of the City of Colville, Washington, that the City of Colville declares its support for the Colville School District's "Start by Believing" campaign.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Colville, Washington the ____ day of _____, 2018.

Mayor Louis F. Janke

Attest: _____
Holly Pannell, MMC, PFO, City Clerk/
Human Resources Manager

COLVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 115
"START BY BELIEVING"
PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN
RESOLUTION NO. 17/18-3

WHEREAS, the Colville School District shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

WHEREAS, the Colville School District works collaboratively with Rural Resources Victim Services to support students and families who are victims of sexual violence; 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 (a program of End Violence Against Women International) 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;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Colville School District hereby proclaims, in concert with the Victim Services, the Colville School District is a "Start by Believing" district.


Approved by the Board of Directors of Colville School District, Stevens County, Washington, in a meeting thereof held on May 23, 2018.



President, Board of Directors



Director



Director





Director

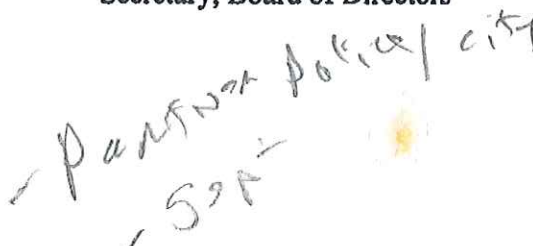


Director

ATTEST: 

Secretary, Board of Directors



(/homenew)

ABOUT START BY BELIEVING

START BY BELIEVING IS THE GLOBAL
CAMPAIGN TO TRANSFORM THE WAY
WE RESPOND TO SEXUAL ASSAULT

It was created by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI), America's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to improving criminal justice responses to sexual assault.

Paving the Road to Justice and Healing

Most victims of sexual assault never report the crime to law enforcement, often because of the responses they receive from friends and family members. Our Start by Believing campaign is designed to change this. By preparing both professionals and loved ones to respond appropriately to sexual assault disclosures, we help to improve outcomes for victims – one reaction at a time.

Knowing how to respond is critical, because a negative response can worsen the trauma and foster an environment where perpetrators face no consequences for their crimes. What's worse, this means a victory for the perpetrator, who remains free to rape again. And statistics show that rapists don't just attack once – many re-offend, often multiple times. It's a frightening equation: One failed response can mean additional victims. Start by Believing stops this cycle of silence by improving our personal and professional reactions.



More Than a Few Words

Start by Believing was launched during Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April 2011 in conjunction with the *International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Stalking* hosted by EVAWI in Chicago, Illinois.

However, Start by Believing is more than just a few words. It is not simply a pledge that an individual might take, or a public awareness campaign that an agency or community might adopt. It is not a specific phrase that needs to be said to victims.

Rather, Start by Believing is a philosophical stance that should guide our responses to sexual assault. It “flips the script” on the message victims have historically received from professionals and support people, which is: “How do I know you’re not lying?”

To truly implement a Start by Believing approach for victims of sexual assault, this should have profound implications for virtually every aspect of community’s response system. The philosophy should carry over into policies, daily practices, and multidisciplinary protocols of all the agencies that serve the needs of victims.