



**University of Michigan**  
**PROCLAMATION**

**Supporting the "Start by Believing" Public Awareness Campaign**

**Whereas**, the University of Michigan shares a critical concern for victims of sexual violence and a desire to support their needs for justice and healing; and

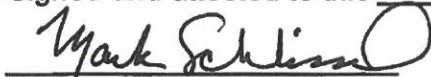
**Whereas**, research estimates that as many as 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men are the victim of sexual assault in their lifetimes (Center for Disease Control, 2012 Summary Report), yet most will not report the crime to law enforcement (U.S. Department of Justice, Victimization Not Reported to the Police, 2006-2010); 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 (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network); and

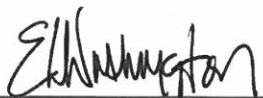
**Whereas**, the "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign (a program of End Violence Against Women International) is designed to improve the responses of friends, family members, and community professionals, so they can help victims to access supportive resources and engage the criminal justice system;

**Now Therefore, I, Mark Schlissel, President of the University of Michigan, do hereby proclaim, in concert with the University of Michigan Division of Public Safety and Security and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center, our shared support of the "Start by Believing" public awareness campaign.**


Signed and attested to this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016

  
Mark Schlissel, President  
University of Michigan

Attest:

  
Eddie L. Washington, Jr. Executive Director  
U-M Division of Public Safety and Security

Attest:

  
Holly Rider- Milkovich, Director  
U-M Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center