



# DEBRA BOWEN

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Contact: Nicole Winger  
(916) 653-6575

### Secretary of State Bowen Highlights 'Safe at Home' During Sexual Assault Awareness Month

**SACRAMENTO** – As Californians prepare to mark Denim Day – a key Sexual Assault Awareness Month event every April – Secretary of State Debra Bowen today highlighted the crucial services provided by her agency's Safe at Home program.

“Survivors of sexual assault and several other crimes are living free from fear thanks to the Safe at Home confidential address program,” said Secretary Bowen. “Safe at Home services have helped over 4,400 Californians regain the security they deserve and start new lives with confidential name changes, voter registration, mail forwarding, and more.”

Established in 1999, the Safe at Home program works with enrolling agencies such as district attorneys' offices, health clinics, and women's shelters to protect the identities of eligible survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking.

Denim Day – set for April 22 this year – is an annual day of solidarity against sexual violence, bringing attention to the infamous 1999 Italian Supreme Court decision to overturn a rape conviction because the victim was wearing jeans and, the court reasoned, invited the attack.

“Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Denim Day serve to highlight the progress our society has made in respecting the brave women, men, and children who have survived abuse,” said Secretary Bowen. “It's also a time to renew our commitment to protecting people who are at risk and spreading the word about the resources available to help them.”

Thirty-two states have confidential mail-forwarding programs but California's more extensive Safe at Home is widely considered a national model. Currently, approximately 2,360 people are enrolled in Safe at Home, most of whom are women and children.

For more information about Safe at Home and a county-by-county list of enrolling agencies, visit <http://www.casafeathome.org/>.

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