

WHEREAS, 1 in 3 female teens in a dating relationship have feared for their physical safety; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 2 teens in serious relationships have compromised their beliefs to please their partner; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1 in 5 teens who have been in a serious relationship said their boyfriend or girlfriend would threaten to hurt themselves or their partner if there was a breakup; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 5 teens in a serious relationship report that they have been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner; and

WHEREAS, more than 1 in 4 teens have been in a relationship where their partner verbally abuses them; and

WHEREAS, 29 percent of girls who have been in a relationship said they have been pressured to have sex or engage in sex they did not want; and

WHEREAS, nearly 50 percent of girls worry that their partner would break up with them if they did not agree to engage in sex; and

WHEREAS, Native American women experience higher rates of interpersonal violence than any other population group; and

WHEREAS, violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims who are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult revictimization; and

WHEREAS, the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to increase if the pattern has been established in adolescence; and

WHEREAS, 81 percent of parents surveyed either believe dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is an issue; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim the week of February 5-9, 2007, as

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND PREVENTION WEEK
in the State of Louisiana.

2nd February
2007