



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Females between the ages of 16 and 24 are more vulnerable to dating violence than any other age group, at a rate almost triple the national average; and
- WHEREAS: One in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and
- WHEREAS: Five Minnesotans under the age of 21 were killed due to dating violence in 2011; and
- WHEREAS: High school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at a greater risk of suicide, and are much more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and
- WHEREAS: Young people victimized by a dating partner are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior and unhealthy dieting behaviors, and the experience may disrupt normal development of self-esteem and body image; and
- WHEREAS: Nearly half of teens who experience dating violence report that incidents of abuse took place in a school building or on school grounds; and
- WHEREAS: Only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship ever tell anyone about the abuse, and 81% of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is one; and
- WHEREAS: By providing young people with education about healthy relationships, building relationship skills, and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and
- WHEREAS: It is essential to raise awareness among communities and to provide training for teachers, counselors, and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and
- WHEREAS: The establishment of Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month will benefit young people, their families, schools, and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of February, 2012 as:

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 13th day of February.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE