



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Nearly ninety percent of smokers begin at or before the age of eighteen, with the average age being thirteen years old; and
- WHEREAS: Everyday, 4,000 kids try their first cigarette and an additional 1,000 kids under the age of 18, become new, regular daily smokers—equaling 400,000 new, underage smokers ever year; and
- WHEREAS: Fifteen percent of high school boys were smokeless tobacco users in 2009—a thirty-six percent increase from 2003; and
- WHEREAS: The Surgeon General states that tobacco use kills over 443,000 people per year, making it the number one cause of preventable death in the United States; and
- WHEREAS: Studies from the Surgeon General also found that 7,000 chemicals in each puff of a cigarette rapidly spread throughout the body and cause damage to nearly every organ; and
- WHEREAS: Regardless of age, smokers can substantially reduce their risk of disease, including cancer, heart disease, and COPD, by quitting smoking; and
- WHEREAS: Youth Tobacco Awareness Month focuses awareness about the dangers of tobacco use and aims to prevent youth tobacco addiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of October, 2011 to be:

## YOUTH TOBACCO 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of September.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton", written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Ritchie", written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE