



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Latinos make up sixteen percent of the population of the United States, but account for twenty-one percent of all new HIV infections and nineteen percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS nationally; and
- WHEREAS: Since 1982, 740 Latino men, women, and children have been diagnosed with HIV infection in Minnesota. As of December 31, 2012, 158 deaths have been reported and 642 people are living with HIV infection; and
- WHEREAS: Late diagnosis of HIV is associated with increased transmission of the disease, health care costs, and death rates; and twenty-six percent of Latinos in Minnesota have tested late during the last ten years, resulting in lost years of beneficial treatment and opportunities to prevent HIV from spreading; and
- WHEREAS: It is critical to raise awareness of the importance of early HIV diagnosis and care within the Latino community and continue to offer expanded, culturally-appropriate HIV testing, prevention, care, and treatment programs and services; and
- WHEREAS: AIDS has challenged the extended Latino family and community members to unite and confront the stigmas associated with the disease, including drug use, sexuality, fears of deportation, and cultural barriers; and
- WHEREAS: Latino AIDS Awareness Day brings an opportunity to increase community awareness and commemorate those who have lost their battle with HIV/AIDS; and
- WHEREAS: "Commit to Speak," the theme for National Latino AIDS Awareness Day 2013, represents a celebration of the Latino culture and renewed commitment and solidarity to combat HIV and AIDS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, October 15, 2013, as:

LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY

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 14th day of October.

Handwritten signature of Mark Dayton in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Mark Ritchie in black ink.

SECRETARY OF STATE