



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Dating violence is a pattern of behavior involving the use or attempted use of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse by a person to harm, intimidate, or control a person with whom they have or have had a relationship with a sexual or emotional component; 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: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner each year; and
- WHEREAS: According to a 2012 study by the CDC, 80 percent of female victims of sexual assault experience their first rape before age 25 and 42 percent before age 18, with more than half of these women being victimized by a dating partner; 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: Only one third of teenagers in an abusive relationship ever tell anyone about the abuse, and 81 percent 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 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 February 2013 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 4th day of February.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE