



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: American Indians rank third in the United States (among all ethnicities) in rates of new HIV infections by population size; and
- WHEREAS: In Minnesota, there have been 221 HIV/AIDS cases reported among American Indian men, women, and children, and an estimated 121 American Indians are reported to be currently living with HIV as of 2011; and
- WHEREAS: National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a nationwide call to action to Native communities across the United States to raise awareness that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is growing and that engagement and education are necessary to prevent infections; and
- WHEREAS: With the theme of, "Honor Our Ancestors! Protect Our People! Take the Test!," this day challenges us to work in harmony; create a greater awareness of the risk of HIV/AIDS to our American Indian communities; call for resources for testing, early detection, and care; and decrease the occurrence of HIV/AIDS among American Indian people; and
- WHEREAS: Local, community-based organizations and Tribal Councils are hosting community events, exhibits, testing, and training to recognize this day and its importance to our American Indian communities and all concerned citizens; and
- WHEREAS: It is fitting that we join with these national and local groups and Tribal Councils to express our strong support for National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and the initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in American Indian communities, and to provide treatment and support services to those infected and affected by this disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim March 20, 2013 as:

## NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Minnesota, and urge all community-based organizations, Tribal Councils, religious communities, civic groups, elected officials, governmental agencies, and local residents to support this day and participate in events planned to commemorate the occasion.



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 13<sup>th</sup> day of March.

  
GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE