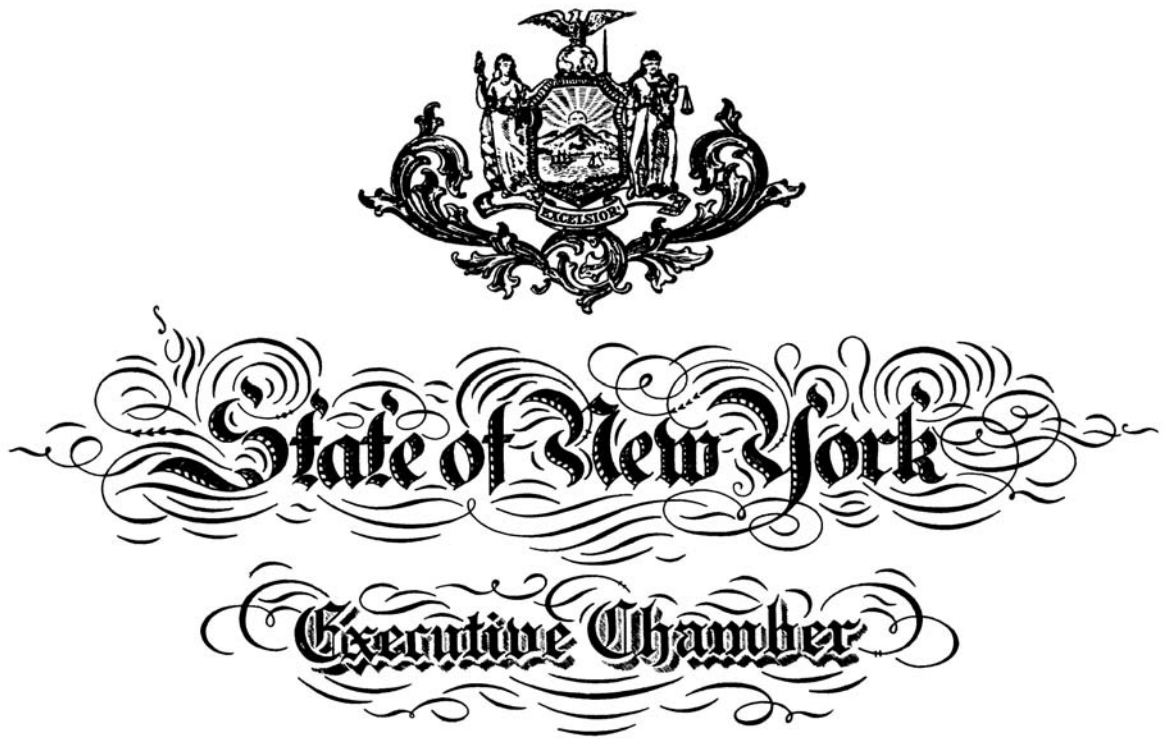




Proclamation

Whereas, domestic violence affects all New Yorkers, and far too many people suffer abuse at the hands of a spouse or intimate partner; these victims can be of any age, race, religion, or economic status and the resulting damage is inflicted not only on victims, but their children, families and communities; and

Whereas, the documented instances of domestic violence are only a small representation of the breadth of the problem, and yet even these are staggering and growing: within a one year period in New York State, 400,000 people called the police because of a domestic incident, the alarming 2008 increase in intimate partner homicide was maintained in 2009, there was a 21% increase in orders of protections issued from 2008 and a 26% increase from 2007; and

Whereas, passage of critical laws to help protect and assist domestic violence victims and their children and to hold offenders accountable continues, with legislation signed into law this year to establish the crime of strangulation in New York's penal law, improved measures to facilitate and extend orders of protection, and reform the State's divorce laws by allowing for no-fault divorce and establishing temporary maintenance guidelines for spouses with lesser incomes; and

Whereas, New York State's commitment to ending domestic violence is also exemplified by the work of its state agencies that, in the face of declining revenues, have continued to recognize that sustaining our response to domestic violence is critical through efforts including: taking steps to strengthen systems' response to domestic violence in both the criminal justice and human services fields through enhanced screening in a variety of health and human services agencies, and improving our efforts to measure the incidence and prevalence of domestic violence crimes in addition to the daily work carried out by agencies that are dedicated to working with those who respond to and assist victims; and

Whereas, New York recognizes the outstanding work of the State's dedicated not-for-profit organizations, serving victims and their communities in difficult fiscal times; domestic violence service providers remain essential components of the State's response to domestic violence, serving nearly 16,000 victims and children in 2009; local task forces and advisory councils, family justice centers, civil legal services and domestic violence courts work to provide effective, coordinated services; statewide organizations with expertise in domestic violence provide research and counsel on critical issues facing service and legal practitioners; and

Whereas, New York's state agencies and non-profit organizations are committed to the exchange of essential information and experience, opportunities to increase participation in shaping and implementing effective domestic violence policy have been provided through innovative, internet education and communication technologies; and

Whereas, New York State continues to take decisive steps in developing and strengthening policies and laws to hold domestic violence offenders accountable and to support and assist victims and their children, through our legal, law enforcement, human services, education and healthcare systems; our State also remains dedicated to increasing the public's knowledge of domestic violence through the dissemination of informational materials and through collaborative efforts such as the State's annual "Shine the Light on Domestic Violence" initiative, which connects communities across the State by turning New York purple in October, an electronic campaign targeted to teens, and a social media presence; and

Whereas, New Yorkers join with all Americans in supporting victims of domestic violence and share the worthy goals of this month-long observance, and likewise, support the work of public and private entities that strive to provide the best coordinated response to domestic violence in communities across this State, therefore sending a loud and clear message to abusers that domestic violence is not tolerated in our State;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 2010 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capital in the City of Albany this twentieth day
day of September in the year two thousand ten.

David A. Paterson

Governor

Laurence Schwartz

Secretary to the Governor