

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, The youth of Kansas are one of this State's most precious resources, and ensuring their safety, well-being, healthy development and positive growth is a priority and responsibility we all share, and the transitional adolescent years present new challenges and choices for teens as they experience dating relationships for the first time and, unfortunately, associated pressures and expectations that can lead to abusive behavior; and

WHEREAS, The crime of teen dating violence, including physical, verbal and emotional abuse, sexual assault, and harassment via texting, email, or "instant messaging" is a reality for many teenagers in Kansas and other states; and

WHEREAS, Nationwide surveys conducted in 2006 and 2007 examined teen dating relationships and experiences, and specific findings from these surveys include the following: 30% of teens in a dating relationship have been text-messaged 10-30 times an hour by a partner to find out where they are, what they are doing or who they are with; the findings also indicate that nearly one in five teens has been slapped, hit or pushed by his or her partner; and

WHEREAS, Dating violence is occurring at increasingly younger ages as evidenced by more young victims utilizing domestic violence programs and by studies indicating that half of youth 11 to 14 years of age ("tweens") are in a dating relationship and, of those, 62% experienced verbal abuse and one in five experienced physical abuse; and

WHEREAS, Studies also indicate that long-term effects of violent relationships can be serious and put victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult re-victimization; and

WHEREAS, In declaring this first week of February as "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week," we offer this observance to encourage statewide youth, families, schools, law enforcement communities, government agencies, elected officials, civic organizations and other interested groups to sponsor and participate in related programs and activities and for parents with tweens and teens to recommit to discussing dating and the potential for dating violence:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK PARKINSON, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim, February 1-7, 2010 as

Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week

in Kansas.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of the
State this 27th day of
January, A.D. 2010

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Handwritten signature of Mark Parkinson in blue ink.
Handwritten signature of Ken Shuck in blue ink.
Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State