

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



Governor's Office

PROCLAMATION

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH *February 2010*

WHEREAS, Females between the ages 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group at a rate almost triple the national average; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 3 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, high school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at greater risk of suicide, and are much more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and

WHEREAS, only 33 percent of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told 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, and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit teens, their families, schools, and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or gender.

THEREFORE, I, Edward G. Rendell, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim February 2010, TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH, in Pennsylvania. I urge all to respond to and work toward ending teen dating violence by supporting their communities' efforts to empower teens to develop healthier relationships and assist victims in finding and accessing the resources they need, creating policies in schools, and by engaging in discussions with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet but heinous crime of teen dating violence in their communities.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twenty-ninth day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and ten, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

Edward G. Rendell
EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor