

STATE OF DELAWARE



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

Whereas, dating violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors used to exert power and control over a dating partner; and

Whereas, one in three adolescents 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, 1 in 5 women and nearly 1 in 7 men who ever experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner, first experienced some form of intimate partner violence between 11 and 17 years of age; 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, youth who engaged in high rates of self-reported bully perpetration during middle school were almost 7 times more likely to self-report engaging in physical dating violence perpetration four years later in high school; and

Whereas, a third (32%) of female homicides among adolescents between the ages of 11-18 are committed by a dating partner; and

Whereas, one in four teens in a relationship report being called names, harassed, or put down by their partner via cell phone/texting; and

Whereas, only 33 percent of teens who are 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, whether it is violence based on sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or gender, effective public health prevention of this violence will necessitate the consideration and inclusion of such inequalities; and

Whereas, every person has the right to optimal health and safe and respectful relationships free from abuse.

Now, Therefore, I, Jack A. Markell, Governor,
do hereby declare February, 2016

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

and urge all Delawareans to observe this month with activities that promote awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence in our communities.



Handwritten signature of Jack A. Markell in blue ink.

Jack A. Markell
Governor

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Number