

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, 1 in 3 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 10 high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend, teenagers between the ages of 16 and 19 are 3.5 times more likely than the general public to be victims of sexual abuse; and

Whereas, 52% of teens who experience digital abuse are also physically or sexually abused by a dating partner; and

Whereas, only 33% of teens who are in an abusive relationship ever tell anyone about the abuse, and 81% of parents believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is an issue; and

Whereas, 69.5% of women and 53.6% of men who have been physically or sexually abused, or stalked by a dating partner, first experienced abuse between the ages of 11 and 24; 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, by providing young people with relationship skills and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; 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 healthy, safe and respectful relationships free from abuse.

*Now, Therefore, We, John Carney, Governor,
and Bethany Hall-Long, Lieutenant Governor,
do hereby declare February 2017, as*

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Delaware, 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 and to promote healthy and respectful relationships.



John Carney

John C. Carney
Governor

Bethany A. Hall-Long

Bethany A. Hall-Long
Lieutenant Governor

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