

STATE OF DELAWARE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



**PROCLAMATION  
IN OBSERVANCE OF  
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH**

*Whereas*, dating violence is a pattern of abusive, threatening or controlling behavior, including stalking, used to exert power and control over a dating partner; and

*Whereas*, 1 in 10 high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend; and

*Whereas*, approximately 8.6 million women under the age of 18 were victims of physical or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner; and

*Whereas*, girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at a rate almost triple the national average; and

*Whereas*, during the 2016-2017 school year, public schools in Delaware reported 220 sexual offenses to law enforcement and the Department of Education; and

*Whereas*, 11 of those reports met the definition of dating violence; and

*Whereas*, violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications and put the victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior and future domestic violence; and

*Whereas*, it is essential to raise community awareness and to provide training for teachers, counselors, and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; 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

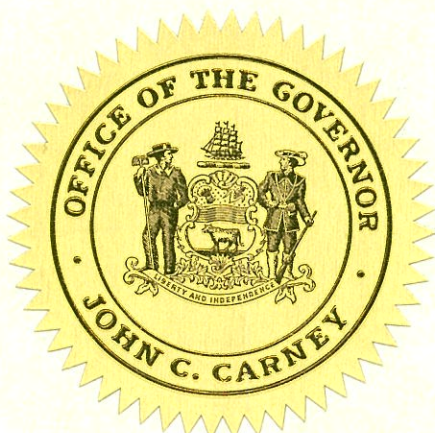
*Whereas*, Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month will benefit young people, their families, schools and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation or ethnicity; and

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

*Now, Therefore, We, John Carney, Governor,  
and Bethany Hall-Long, Lieutenant Governor,  
do hereby declare February 2018*

**TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND 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 acknowledge our responsibility to set positive examples for our State's teenagers by celebrating and demonstrating healthy relationships.



*John C. Carney*  
John C. Carney  
Governor

*Bethany A. Hall-Long*  
Bethany A. Hall-Long  
Lieutenant Governor

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Number