



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, dating violence is a pattern of behavior involving the use or attempted use of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, financial, technological, or other abusive behavior by a person to harm, coerce, control, threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, restrain or monitor another person with whom they have or have had a social relationship; and

WHEREAS, one-third of young women in the United States will experience physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner by the time she graduates high school, yet two-thirds of young victims never report being abused; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner each year; and

WHEREAS, almost one-third (32%) of homicides of girls between the ages of 11 and 18 are committed by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, more than half of youth reporting both dating violence and rape have attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2012 study released by the CDC, 80% of female victims of sexual assault experience their first rape before age 25 and 42% before age 18, and more than half of these young women were victimized by their dating partners; and

WHEREAS, one-fourth of teens in a relationship have been called names, harassed or put down by a partner through cell phones and texting; and

WHEREAS, physical and sexual dating violence victimization is associated with an increased risk for dropping out of school, lower grades, and less connectedness to school; and

WHEREAS, high school victims of dating violence are more susceptible than their fellow students to suicide, depression, self-destructive behavior, eating disorders, absence from school, substance abuse, teen pregnancy and STIs, and often carry patterns of victimization into adult relationships; and

WHEREAS, it takes great courage for all victims of abuse to speak out; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to raise awareness among communities 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, some dating violence can be prevented by providing young people with education about building healthy relationships, recognizing the early warning signs of violence and abuse, seeking help, by providing safe environments for discussion, and by changing the attitudes that support violence; and

WHEREAS, Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month provides an opportunity to learn about preventing dating violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim February 2013 as

Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this fifth day of March, 2013.



Governor



Secretary of State

