



STATE OF NEW MEXICO **EXECUTIVE OFFICE** SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a pattern of actual or threatened physical, sexual, emotional and technological abuse perpetrated by an adolescent against a current or former dating partner; and

WHEREAS, 47% of teens nationally have been controlled, 24% have experienced technological abuse, and 29% have been physically or sexually abused during their relationships, and 80% know someone their age who has been controlled by their dating partner; and

WHEREAS, 1-in-9 New Mexico teens report being hit, slapped, or intentionally harmed by their dating partner in the past year; and

WHEREAS, youth of color in New Mexico experience disproportional rates of victimization, with 21.7% of African-American, 12.7% of Latino, and 12.6% of Native-American teens reporting physical dating violence; and

WHEREAS, technologies such as cell-phones and the Internet have made dating abuse both more pervasive and hidden, increasing the danger of dating violence and stalking; and

WHEREAS, teen dating violence is considered a serious public health issue, placing adolescent victims at greater risk for poor academic achievement, teen pregnancy, substance use, behaviors associated with violence, suicide and adult re-victimization; and

WHEREAS, the severity of violence among intimate partners has been shown to be greater in cases where the pattern of violence has been established in adolescence, and parents are largely unaware of the abuse their teens are experiencing, particularly cell-phone and Internet abuse; and

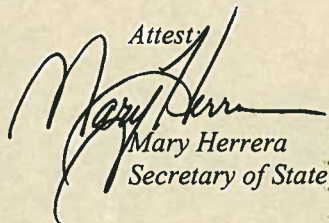
WHEREAS, the establishment of National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit teens, their families, schools, and communities regardless of socio-economic status, ethnicity or gender; and

NOW, THEREFORE I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim February, 2010 as:

"Dating Violence Awareness & Prevention Month"

throughout the State of New Mexico.

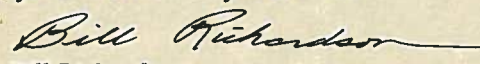
Attest:


Mary Herrera
Secretary of State



Done at the Executive Office this
6th day of January, 2010.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico


Bill Richardson
Governor