

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATEMENT IN OBSERVANCE OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Whereas, 72 percent of students in eighth and ninth grades are “dating”, and 1 in 3 female teens in a serious relationship has feared for her physical safety; and

Whereas, 29 percent of girls who have been in a relationship report feeling pressured to have sex or engage in sex acts when they don’t want to; and

Whereas, a study of eighth and ninth graders indicated that 25 percent have been victims of dating violence, including 8 percent who disclosed sexual abuse; and

Whereas, a study of adolescent and college students in the U.S. revealed that date rape accounts for 67 percent of sexual assaults; and

Whereas, 40 percent of girls between the ages of 14 – 17 know someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend; and

Whereas, acceptance of dating violence among friends is one of the strongest links to being involved in future dating violence; and

Whereas, more than 80 percent of parents surveyed are unaware of the problem of dating violence with today’s youth; and

Whereas, violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, who are at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide and adult re-victimization; and

Whereas, members of the Domestic Violence Task Force, the Delaware Victims' Rights Task Force, and other community partners are committed to raising awareness and preventing teen dating violence throughout the State of Delaware.

*Now, Therefore, We, Jack A. Markell, Governor,
and Matthew Denn, Lieutenant Governor,
do hereby declare February, 2012,*

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

in the First State, 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.

Jack A. Markell
Governor

Matthew Denn
Lieutenant Governor