



# CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Virginia recognizes teen dating abuse as interaction between teens which includes controlling behavior, verbal abuse, physical abuse and/or coerced sex; and

**WHEREAS**, over 20% of Virginia teens report being a victim to some form of teen dating abuse; and

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

**WHEREAS**, by providing young people with education about healthy relationships, building relationship skills, and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; 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**, all Virginians are urged to respond to and work toward ending teen dating violence by supporting their communities' efforts to empower young people to develop healthier relationships and assist victims in finding and accessing the resources they need, creating effective policies in schools, and by engaging in discussions with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet epidemic of teen dating violence in their communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize February, 2012 as **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the establishment of **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH** will benefit young people, their families, schools, and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth