

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

Whereas An alarming number of young people experience abuse as part of a controlling or violent dating relationship; and

Whereas Each year, nearly one in ten high-school students is intentionally hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend, and one in three girls will face abuse from a dating partner; and

Whereas Two-thirds of young victims never report being abused; and

Whereas Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth face the additional concern of rejection from friends, family members and service providers that they turn to for help; and

Whereas Young victims of dating violence are more likely to report an STI, suffer from depression, display disordered eating behaviors, contemplate suicide, become pregnant, abuse alcohol, and abuse illegal and prescription drugs; and

Whereas Both victims and perpetrators have been shown to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and

Whereas By providing young people with education about healthy relationships and supporting the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical support to young victims, Massachusetts seeks to end teen dating violence,

Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim February 2012, to be

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this fifteenth day of February, in the year two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency

A blue ink signature of Deval L. Patrick, written in a cursive style.

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

A blue ink signature of William Francis Galvin, written in a cursive style.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts