



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is committed to the well-being and protection of our youth, the safety of our communities, and to fostering a society based upon respect for one another – and where violence has no role; teen dating violence, and its various forms of control and abuse, is a serious crime that can continue into adulthood, with the potential to destroy lives; and

Whereas, teen dating violence involves physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic, or other abusive behavior – including harassment and cyberbullying via texting, “sexting,” emailing, instant messaging, or posting on social media – and is committed by a person intending to harm, threaten, intimidate, harass, control, isolate, or monitor another person with whom they have or have had a dating relationship; during early teenage dating experiences, new and complex emotions can result in a victim misinterpreting certain behaviors displayed by a dating partner – such as obsessiveness and impulsive actions – as affection; and

Whereas, teen dating violence can have a negative effect on health throughout life, as teen victims are more likely to be depressed, have eating disorders, do poorly in school, engage in harmful behaviors such as drug and alcohol use, and think about or attempt suicide; sadly, a number of today’s teenagers experience some form of dating violence, though many parents and guardians are unaware that their son, daughter, or other child within their care is a victim or a perpetrator; and

Whereas, national studies on this issue indicate that approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls experience some form of interpersonal violence; nearly 1 in 10 teens report they were hit, slapped, or physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend; such patterns of violence can continue beyond the teen years, with 1 in 6 college women having experienced sexual abuse in a dating relationship; and

Whereas, studies regarding abusive behavior by means of digital communication report that while more than 1 in 3 young people have experienced threats online, only 1 in 10 teens tells a parent if they have been a victim of cyberbullying, and fewer than 1 in 5 cyberbullying incidents are reported to law enforcement; it is further reported that nearly 40% of teenagers received electronic contact from their partner anywhere from 10 to more than 30 times per hour, in a single evening; and

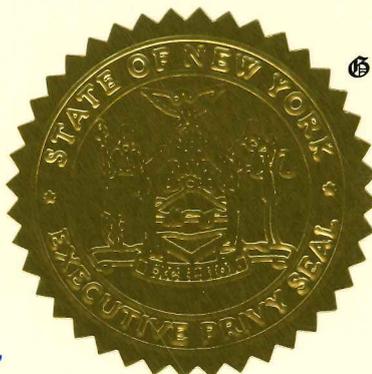
Whereas, statistics indicate that 40% of teen girls and 49% of teen boys reported that other individuals were present during an abusive incident; New York State has focused on teen dating violence through preventive outreach and education to bystanders using social media initiatives and public awareness campaigns; and

Whereas, both Houses of the U.S. Congress have declared February “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month,” and New York State joins in this observance by encouraging youth, families, schools, law enforcement, government agencies, elected officials, civic organizations, and others statewide to support organizations and individuals that provide critical advocacy to victims and promote public awareness of teen dating violence;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim February 2016 as

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day of
February in the year two thousand sixteen.

Governor

Washam J. Mathon
Secretary to the Governor