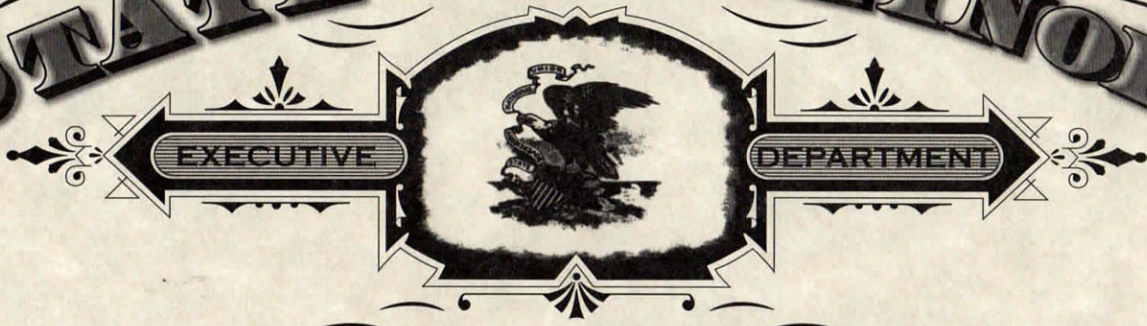


STATE OF ILLINOIS



Proclamation

- WHEREAS, a form of domestic violence, teen dating violence is generally an unspoken problem that is only now beginning to receive attention; and
- WHEREAS, one in three young people are affected by physical, sexual, or verbal dating violence, with one in five in a serious relationship reporting having been slapped, pushed, hit, threatened or coerced by a partner, and breakups can be a time of even greater risk, even when a relationship was never physically abusive; and
- WHEREAS, those abused during adolescence are at a higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, and suicide, and many will continue to be abused during their adult relationships; and
- WHEREAS, young people can choose better relationships when they understand that healthy relationships are based on respect; and
- WHEREAS, young people can better protect themselves when they learn to identify the early warning signs of an abusive relationship; and
- WHEREAS, unfortunately, 81 percent of parents either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they do not know if it is an issue; and
- WHEREAS, children are extremely impressionable, and elimination of dating violence can only be achieved through cooperation of individuals, organizations, and communities; and
- WHEREAS, the observance of February as Dating Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about preventing dating violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims; and
- WHEREAS, remaining silent about teen dating violence sends a message that it is acceptable, but by working together we can prevent this deplorable behavior:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim February 2010 as **DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, to bring attention to the serious issue of dating violence, which has been ignored for far too long, and to encourage all citizens to learn what they can do to prevent it.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-FIRST *day of* JANUARY, *in*
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
TEN, *and of the State of Illinois*
the one hundred and NINETY-SECOND