

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH FEBRUARY 2010

- WHEREAS,** *Females between the ages of 16-24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group at a rate almost triple the national average; and*
- WHEREAS,** *1 in 3 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,** *High school students who experience physical violence in a dating relationship are more likely to use drugs and alcohol, are at greater risk of suicide, and are much more likely to carry patterns of abuse into future relationships; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Only 33% of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told 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, and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented.*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim **FEBRUARY 2010** as **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH** in Maryland, and do urge all to respond to and work toward ending teen dating violence by supporting their communities' efforts to empower teens to develop healthier relationships and assist victims in finding and accessing the resources they need, creating policies in schools, and by engaging in discussions with family members and peers to promote awareness and prevention of the quiet but heinous crime of teen dating violence in their communities.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of February
Two Thousand and ten



Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert Ehrlich
Lt. Governor

Joseph C. McPherson
Secretary of State