



WHEREAS, females between the ages 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, 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; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit teens, their families, schools, and communities regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or gender; and

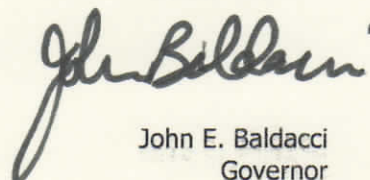
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN E. BALDACCI, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby proclaim February, 2010 as

DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

throughout the State of Maine, and urge all citizens to recognize this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty eighth day of January Two Thousand and Ten.


John E. Baldacci
Governor


Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State
TRUE ATTESTED COPY