

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, dating violence is a pattern of behavior involving the use or attempted use of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, financial, technological, or other abusive behavior by a person to harm, coerce, control, threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, restrain or monitor another person with whom they have or have had a social relationship involving a physical, sexual, or emotional component; and

WHEREAS, one in three girls in the United States will experience physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner by the time she graduates high school, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates for other types of violence affecting youth; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control reports nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner each year; and

WHEREAS, a third (32%) of homicides of girls between the ages of 11 and 18 are committed by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, over 50% of youth reporting both dating violence and rape have attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS, despite frighteningly high numbers of reports of dating violence, two-thirds of young victims never report being abused; and

WHEREAS, adolescent girls in physically abusive relationships are 3.5 times more likely to become pregnant than non-abused girls; and

WHEREAS, it takes great courage for all victims of abuse to speak out, but lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer youth face the concern of being re-victimized by those that they turn to for help as friends, family members and service providers can leave victims of same-sex dating violence feeling isolated and unwanted; and

WHEREAS, the silence surrounding teen dating violence leads 81% of parents to either believe teen dating violence is not a problem or to admit they do not know if it is one, even though one in four students, ages 11-14, see physical abuse as a serious problem for couples in their age group; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to raise awareness among communities and to provide training for teachers, counselors, and school staff so that they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and

WHEREAS, by providing young people with education about building healthy relationships, how to recognize early warning signs violence and abuse and how to seek help, by providing safe environments for discussion, and by changing the attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented;

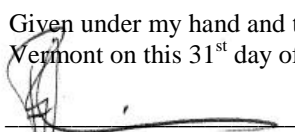
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim February 2013 as

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 31st day of January, A.D. 2013.


Peter Shumlin
Governor