



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**A PROCLAMATION
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE
AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS: Domestic violence is a major public concern for our state and nation and is now the single largest cause of injury to women. Females between the ages of 16 and 24 are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence than any other age group, at a rate almost triple the national average; and

WHEREAS: One in three 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 percent of teens who were in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the abuse, and 81 percent 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 supporting young people with education about healthy relationships, and by changing attitudes that support violence, we recognize that dating violence can be prevented; and

WHEREAS: It is essential to raise public awareness about the frequency of domestic violence of all kinds and intervene before it escalates, so that the cycle can be broken before it starts; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 2010 as TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia, and I encourage all citizens to join this important effort to educate and empower our teens to stop dating violence.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 15th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand ten.



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

ATTEST
Ed F. Holcombe
CHIEF OF STAFF