



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State is committed to the well-being and protection of our youth, the safety of our communities, and to fostering a society based upon mutual respect – with zero tolerance for any forms of abuse; and

Whereas, teen dating abuse is a serious crime that can involve physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic, or other abusive behavior, including harassment and cyberbullying via texting, “sexting,” emailing, instant messaging, or posting on social media; and

Whereas, according to national studies on teen dating abuse, one in three adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of some type of abuse from a dating partner – a figure that far exceeds rates of other types of youth violence; one in ten high school students has been purposefully hit, slapped, or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend; one in ten teens reported sexual victimization from a dating partner; and one in four teens in a relationship report their boyfriend or girlfriend isolating them from all friends and family; and

Whereas, teen dating abuse can negatively affect physical and emotional health and well-being with sometimes fatal consequences, as teen victims are more likely to be depressed, have eating disorders, do poorly in school, engage in harmful behaviors such as drug and alcohol use, and think about or attempt suicide; and

Whereas, while many teenagers experience some form of dating abuse, parents and guardians are often unaware of the problem: studies show that only 33 percent of teens in an abusive relationship ever told anyone about the behavior and 81 percent of parents responded either that teen dating abuse is not an issue or that they did not know whether it is an issue; and

Whereas, New York State, through its Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, educates New Yorkers about teen dating abuse and its harmful effects and will launch a month-long social media campaign targeting teens and raising awareness of non-physical tactics of abuse, such as cruel and demeaning comments and controlling language; and

Whereas, February is recognized nationally as “Teen Dating Abuse Awareness Month,” New York State joins in this observance by encouraging youth, families, schools, law enforcement, government agencies, elected officials, civic organizations, and others across our state to support organizations and individuals that provide critical advocacy to victims and promote public awareness of teen dating abuse;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim February 2018 as

TEEN DATING ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-sixth
day of January in the year two thousand eighteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Melissa DeRosa