WHEREAS, domestic violence is widespread and affects more than 12 million Americans each year; and

WHEREAS, according to statistics, 24 people per minute in America are victims of rape, stalking or physical violence by an intimate partner; and

WHEREAS, this means about three in 10 women and one in 10 men are victims or survivors of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a serious crime that affects people of all ages, races, genders and socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, children that grow up in violent homes are believed to be abused and neglected at a rate higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence costs the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters, foster care, sick leave, absenteeism and overall non-productivity; and

WHEREAS, only awareness and a coordinated community effort will shine a light on and put a stop to this criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey is committed to the safety and security of all of its residents and to prosecuting perpetrators of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for residents to learn more about preventing domestic violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims and survivors;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

OCTOBER 2018
AS
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey and urge residents to know the signs, to report suspected abuse and to reject and denounce behavior that mimics, minimizes or makes fun of domestic violence in real life, movies, internet gaming or any other circumstance or situation.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-first of September in the year two thousand eighteen, the two hundred forty-third year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR