



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a pattern of abuse or threat of abuse among teenaged dating partners, which can be verbal, emotional, physical, sexual and electronic; and

WHEREAS, teen dating violence is an adverse childhood experience that can have short and long term effects on millions of youth across the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2019, approximately 1 in 12 high school students in the United States has experienced physical abuse in the preceding 12 months; and

WHEREAS, female students experienced teen dating violence at higher rates than males, and students who identified as LGBTQIA+ experienced higher rates of dating violence than students who identify as heterosexual; and

WHEREAS, teen dating violence can start early and have lifelong effects on health, opportunity, and wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, youth who experience teen dating violence are at a greater risk for depression and anxiety, unhealthy and anti-social behaviors, future violence, and thoughts of suicide; and

WHEREAS, teens involved in unhealthy relationships may manifest their trauma in other areas of their lives, resulting in impaired academic performance, social isolation and family disputes; and

WHEREAS, behaviors such as teasing and name calling can develop into a pattern of abusive or violent actions if not identified and addressed early; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey schools have incorporated age-appropriate dating violence awareness education since 2011 in grades 7 through 12; and

WHEREAS, learning skills on building and maintaining health, relationships can help reduce and prevent teen dating violence; and

WHEREAS, community resources to promote healthy relationships and reduce harmful behaviors can decrease the risk of dating violence; and

WHEREAS, Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month provides an opportunity for all residents to learn about dating violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals that provide critical advocacy, services and support to these youth;

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

FEBRUARY 2023

AS

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey and encourage middle and high schools as well as state and local officials and interested groups to observe Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month with appropriate activities and programs that promote awareness and prevention of teen dating violence.



Philip D. Murphy
Lt. GOVERNOR

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this ninth day of January in the year two thousand twenty-three, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States.

Philip D. Murphy
GOVERNOR