STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a pattern of abuse or threat of abuse between and among teenaged dating partners, occurring in different forms, including verbal, emotional, physical, sexual and electronic; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner – a rate of victimization that far exceeds other types of violence affecting youth; and

WHEREAS, teens learn about relationships from peers, adults and the media, all of which can send mixed messages about love and violence; and

WHEREAS, youth in grades 7 through 12 are still learning about self-respect and self-worth, leaving them vulnerable to manipulation and exploitation; and

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

WHEREAS, teens need to learn how to recognize early warning signs of violence and abuse and how to seek help to build healthy relationships; and

WHEREAS, by changing the social norms and behaviors that can increase the likelihood of violence, youth will know they can reject it from their lives; and

WHEREAS, Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month provides an opportunity for all citizens 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 2021
AS
TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey and to 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.

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

Lt. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR