



# 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 – and where violence has no role; teen dating violence, and its various forms of control and abuse, is a serious crime that can continue into adulthood, with the potential to destroy lives; and

**Whereas**, teen dating violence involves 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**, teen dating violence can have a negative effect on health, 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 while many teenagers experience some form of dating violence, parents and guardians are often unaware that their son, daughter, or other child in their care is a victim or a perpetrator; and

**Whereas**, while national studies on teen dating violence show that nearly one in ten teens report they were hit, slapped, or otherwise physically hurt by their boyfriend or girlfriend, only 33 percent of teens in a violent relationship ever told anyone about the abuse, with 81 percent of parents having indicated that teen dating violence either is not an issue or they did not know whether it is an issue; and

**Whereas**, studies about abusive behavior by means of electronic communication find that more than one in three young people have received online threats and show that nearly 40 percent of teenagers received electronic contact from their partner as often as 10 to 30-plus times an hour, within a single evening; and

**Whereas**, New York State, through its Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, educates New Yorkers about teen dating violence and its harmful effects, engages bystanders in prevention through its #ICanDoSomething social media effort and plans to launch a new “This Isn’t Love” public awareness campaign featuring iconic candy hearts with messages of control and abuse, instead of expected sentiments of love and affection; and

**Whereas**, Congress has declared February “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month,” and New York State joins in this observance by encouraging youth, families, schools, law enforcement, government agencies, elected officials, civic organizations, and others statewide to support organizations and individuals that provide critical advocacy to victims and promote public awareness of teen dating violence;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim February 2017 as

## TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

in the Empire State.

**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this thirtieth day  
of January in the year two thousand seventeen.



  
Governor

  
Secretary to the Governor