WHEREAS: Latinos make up 17 percent of the population of the United States and its territories, but account for 21 percent of all new HIV infections and 19 percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS nationally; and

WHEREAS: Since 1982, 773 Latino men, women, and children have been diagnosed with HIV infection in Minnesota. As of December 31, 2013, 163 deaths have been reported, and 665 Latinos are living with HIV infection; and

WHEREAS: Late diagnosis of HIV is associated with increased transmission of the disease, health care costs, and death rates. Over the last 10 years, 39 percent of Latinos in Minnesota with HIV have been tested late, resulting in lost years of beneficial treatment and opportunities to prevent HIV from spreading; and

WHEREAS: AIDS has challenged the Latino community to unite and confront the barriers contributing to the spread of the disease and limiting the number of people seeking testing, including: drug use; fear of deportation; cultural stigmas; and insurance challenges; and

WHEREAS: It is critical to raise awareness of the benefits of early HIV diagnosis and care within the Latino community and continue to offer expanded, culturally-appropriate HIV testing, prevention, treatment, and care-related programs and services; and

WHEREAS: Latino AIDS Awareness Day brings an opportunity to increase community awareness and commemorate those who have lost their battle to HIV/AIDS; and

WHEREAS: The theme for National Latino AIDS Awareness Day 2014, "To End AIDS, Commit to Act," calls for all Latinos to take action to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic by knowing the facts, getting tested, practicing prevention, and getting care if infected.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, October 15, 2014, as:

LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 1st day of October.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE