



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Sexual violence, which is a sexual act committed against someone without that person's freely given consent, remains a pervasive problem in Minnesota and across the nation; and
- WHEREAS: Survivors of sexual violence deserve a community that believes them, supports them, and stands with them in solidarity; and
- WHEREAS: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports a high percentage of girls and boys will experience some form of sexual abuse before they turn 18-years old, and that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 59 men will be raped in their life-time; and
- WHEREAS: Ninety-seven percent of perpetrators of sexual violence receive no punishment for their crime and this lack of accountability silences victims, enables perpetrators, and leaves our community at risk; and
- WHEREAS: The way our community responds to sexual violence will either be hurtful or healing to survivors; and
- WHEREAS: It is impossible to be neutral in situations of injustice; silence supports the perpetrators, never the victims; and
- WHEREAS: Most survivors carry the suffering from these experiences in silence for fear of being invalidated, blamed, shamed, isolated, or subject to retaliation; and
- WHEREAS: More survivors of sexual violence are ready to break the silence by identifying themselves and sharing their stories; and
- WHEREAS: By breaking the silence, survivors give voice to the horrific truth that sexual violence surrounds us.
- WHEREAS: Survivors challenge their families, friends, and communities to transform silence into action and become engaged allies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, August 16, 2017, as:

BREAK THE SILENCE 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 21st day of July.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE