



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) have devastating impacts on our nation's health, infecting nearly 20 million people each year and costing Americans nearly \$16 billion in direct medical costs; and

WHEREAS: Reducing STI-related stigma, and negative societal attitudes toward STI infection and expectations will help reduce barriers to testing and treatment among the most impacted communities; and

WHEREAS: In the United States, young men and women have the highest rates of STI infections with about half of new cases occurring among those age 15 to 24, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Department of Health found that more than 30,000 STI cases and approximately 300 HIV cases were reported in 2017; and

WHEREAS: Communities of color, especially youth of color, often experience the highest infection rates because of limited access to testing and treatment; and

WHEREAS: Expanded testing and treatment efforts, led by organizations representative of impacted communities and equipped to address racial and health inequities, are critical to curbing infection rates and improving the health of all Minnesotans; and

WHEREAS: Community Restoring Urban Youth Sexual Health (CRUSH) will host its fourth annual free and low-cost STI Testing Day on Wednesday, April 25, to help reach Minnesota's most vulnerable youth and young adults ages 13 to 26; and

WHEREAS: Both on STI Testing Day and throughout the year, Minnesotans are encouraged to educate themselves about the ways to prevent STIs, get tested, and seek treatment if infected.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, April 25, 2018, as:

STI TESTING 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 19th day of April.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE