



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: October 15th, 2018, marks one full year since #metoo went viral on social media. The #metoo movement was founded in 2009 by activist Tarana Burke, and was reignited when actress Alyssa Milano requested via Twitter that anybody who had been sexually harassed or assaulted should reply to her Tweet with "#metoo, in order to give a proper visualization of the systemic violations; and
- WHEREAS: Sexual violence is pervasive. Over half a million people responded to Milano's Tweet in the first 24 hours, and by the end of November, Twitter confirmed that over 1.7 million Tweets had been made with #metoo or its translations worldwide; and
- WHEREAS: Survivors of sexual violence deserve a community that believes them, supports them, and stands with them in solidarity; and
- WHEREAS: Ninety-seven percent of perpetrators of sexual violence receive no punishment for their crimes. This lack of accountability silences victims, enables perpetrators, and leaves our communities at risk to repeat offenders; and
- WHEREAS: Many survivors silently carry trauma from these experiences for fear of being blamed, shamed, isolated, or subject to retaliation; and
- WHEREAS: Survivors of sexual violence are ready to break the silence by identifying themselves, their perpetrators, and sharing their stories in solidarity with others choosing to do the same; and
- WHEREAS: By breaking the silence, survivors give voice to the horrific truth that sexual violence surrounds us. By breaking the silence, survivors find solidarity in knowing they are not alone. By breaking the silence, 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 Monday, October 15, 2018, 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 18th day of September.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE