



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Latinos make up sixteen percent of the population of the United States but account for twenty percent of all new HIV infections and seventeen percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS nationally; and

WHEREAS: Since 1982, 702 Latino men, women, and children have been diagnosed with HIV infection in Minnesota. As of December 31, 2011, 155 deaths have been reported and 595 people are living with HIV infection; and

WHEREAS: Late diagnosis of HIV is associated with increased transmission, death rates, and healthcare costs, and fifty-four percent of Latinos in Minnesota have tested late over the last ten years—missing years of beneficial treatment and opportunities to prevent HIV from spreading; and

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

WHEREAS: AIDS has challenged the extended Latino family and community members to unite and confront the stigmas associated with the disease such as drug use, sexuality, fears of deportation, and cultural barriers; and

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

WHEREAS: Representing a celebration of the Latino culture and renewed commitment and solidarity to combat HIV and AIDS, the campaign theme for National Latino AIDS Awareness Day 2012 is, "*Hispanics United to End AIDS. Get Tested for HIV.*"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2012 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 8th day of October.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton".

GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Ritchie".

SECRETARY OF STATE