



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: American Indians/Alaska Natives rank fourth in the United States (among all ethnicities) in rates of new HIV infections by population size; and
- WHEREAS: In Minnesota, there have been 217 HIV/AIDS cases reported among American Indian men, women, and children and an estimated 118 American Indians are reported to be currently living with HIV as of 2010; and
- WHEREAS: *National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* is an observance to call national attention to the plight of American Indian communities and their struggles against the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and
- WHEREAS: This day will challenge us to work in harmony, to create a greater awareness of the risk of HIV/AIDS to our American Indian communities, to call for resources for testing and early detection and getting into care, and to eventually decrease the occurrence of HIV/AIDS among American Indian people; and
- WHEREAS: Local, community-based organizations and Tribal Councils are hosting community events, exhibits, testing opportunities, and trainings to recognize this day and its importance to our American Indian communities and all concerned citizens; and
- WHEREAS: It is fitting that we join with these national and local groups and Tribal Councils to express our strong support for *National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day* and the initiatives to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in the American Indian communities, and to provide treatment and support services to those infected and affected by this disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim March 20, 2012 as:

NATIVE HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Minnesota, and urge all community-based organizations, Tribal Councils, religious communities, civic groups, elected officials, governmental agencies, and local residents to support this day and participate in events planned to commemorate the occasion.



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 5th day of March.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE