



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Nearly 90% of smokers start smoking at or before the age of 18, with the average age being 13; and
- WHEREAS: Each day 4,000 kids try their first cigarette and an additional 1,000 kids under the age of 18 become new, daily smokers, adding 400,000 underage smokers every year; and
- WHEREAS: Fifteen percent of high school boys were smokeless tobacco users in 2009—a thirty-six percent increase from 2003; and
- WHEREAS: The Surgeon General states that tobacco kills over 443,000 people per year, making it the number one cause of preventable death in the United States; and
- WHEREAS: Studies from the Surgeon General also found that with each puff of a cigarette, 7,000 chemicals rapidly spread throughout the body and cause damage to nearly every organ; and
- WHEREAS: Regardless of their age, smokers can substantially reduce their risk of disease, including cancer, heart disease, and other health problems, by quitting; and
- WHEREAS: Youth Tobacco Awareness Month encourages young people to be aware of the dangers of tobacco use in an effort to prevent tobacco addiction.

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

## YOUTH TOBACCO AWARENESS MONTH

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 27<sup>th</sup> day of April.

Handwritten signature of Mark Dayton in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

SECRETARY OF STATE