



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The many voices of those who have been victims of sexual violence must be supported and heard; and
- WHEREAS: Every child deserves to grow up in an environment that supports their ability to reach their full potential; and
- WHEREAS: Sexual violence is one of the most pervasive and serious public health issues in the United States - more women in the United States living as victims of rape than there are women who are current smokers; and
- WHEREAS: Young people are among the populations most heavily affected by sexual violence; and
- WHEREAS: More than 61, 000 Minnesota residents were estimated to be sexually assaulted during 2005, and of these victims, 17, 562 were children; and
- WHEREAS: Research suggests targeting a variety of positive child development experiences can have a short-term impact on prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation and a long-term impact on reducing sexual violence; and
- WHEREAS: A growing number of Minnesota leaders are committed to sexual violence prevention; and
- WHEREAS: All Minnesotans must be part of the solution to eliminate crimes of sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2012 as:

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Minnesota, in honor of all the Minnesotans who have experienced sexual violence, and those who work to assure that victims and survivors have access to justice and essential services; and to make prevention of sexual violence a Minnesota priority.



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 21st day of March.

Handwritten signature of Mark Dayton in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Mark Ritchie in blue ink.

SECRETARY OF STATE