



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

Idaho Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

WHEREAS, the youth of Idaho are this state’s most precious resource and greatest hope for the future, and ensuring their safety, well-being, positive development and growth into healthy citizens is a priority and a responsibility that we all share; and

WHEREAS, nationwide surveys report that one in five youths 11- to 14-years-old have friends who have been victims of dating violence and nearly half who are in relationships know friends who are verbally abused; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 Idaho Youth Risk Behavior Survey reports that 10.6 percent of Idaho high school students have been hit, slapped or physically hurt by their boyfriends or girlfriends during the past year, 9.6 percent of Idaho high school students have been forced to have unwanted sexual intercourse, and 17.7 percent of Idaho high school students have been electronically bullied in the past 12 months; and

WHEREAS, teen dating abuse – including verbal, emotional, digital, sexual, and physical abuse – is a reality for many teenagers and an issue of which many parents are unaware; and

WHEREAS, violent relationships in adolescence can have serious ramifications for victims, who are at higher risk for alcohol and drug abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide and adult re-victimization; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Healthy Teen Relationships and Start Strong Idaho: Building Healthy Teen Relationships, statewide collaborations of the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence and over 30 partnering agencies, educate and engage youth in schools and out-of-school settings, educate and engage parents/caregivers, teachers and other adult mentors on how healthy teen relationships protect teens from risk behaviors and the warning signs of unhealthy or abusive teen relationships, and work together to change policy and environmental factors to promote healthy teen relationships and intervene in unhealthy or abusive teen relationships; and

WHEREAS, Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about the importance of healthy teen relationships and preventing teen dating violence and to show support for the organizations and individuals who provide critical prevention work and advocacy, services, and assistance to victims;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER Governor of the State of Idaho do hereby proclaim the month of February 2011 to be

**IDAHO TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS
AND PREVENTION MONTH**



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this **1st day of February** in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-fifth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-first.

C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE