

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS, ensuring the safety, well-being, and development of our young people into healthy citizens is a priority and responsibility of all South Carolinians; and
- WHEREAS, the adolescent years present new challenges and choices for teens as they experience dating relationships for the first time and, unfortunately, may also encounter associated pressures and expectations that can lead to abusive behavior; and
- WHEREAS, teen dating violence, including physical, verbal, and emotional abuse, sexual assault, and harassment via texting, email, instant messaging, and other social media, is a reality for many teenagers in America today and, like drug abuse, it is a reality of which many parents and caregivers are unaware; and
- WHEREAS, studies also indicate that effects of violent relationships can put victims at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult re-victimization; and
- WHEREAS, Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month offers an opportunity for youth, families, schools, law enforcement communities, government agencies, elected officials, civic organizations, and other interested groups to talk openly about healthy and unhealthy relationships, warning signs of abuse, and what can be done to decrease teen dating violence in the Palmetto State.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2014 as

### TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to prevent teen dating violence for the future well-being and success of our young people.



NIKKI R. HALEY  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA