

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Domestic violence has a devastating impact on individuals, families, and communities in America; and,

Whereas, One in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime; and,

Whereas, An estimated 2.3 million people each year are victims of physical assault by a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend; and,

Whereas, Approximately 37 percent of women seeking injury-related treatment in hospital emergency rooms were there because of injuries inflicted by a current or former spouse or partner; and,

Whereas, The estimated cost of domestic violence exceeds \$5.8 billion each year nationally, with \$4.1 billion in direct health care expenses; and,

Whereas, Witnessing domestic violence between one's parents or caretakers is the strongest risk factor of transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next; and,

Whereas, Approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year; and,

Whereas, In 2008, nonprofit victim service agencies reported 11,441 victims of domestic violence in South Dakota, and it is for all these reasons that we honor victims of domestic violence and those who serve them during the month of October and throughout the year:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 2009 as

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to recognize and continue to work for justice and compassion for all victims of domestic violence.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State

