



PROCLAMATION

Establishing February 2014 as "Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month" in Henry County

WHEREAS, dating violence is a pattern of behavior involving the use or attempted use of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, economic, technological, or other abusive behavior by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, harass, coerce, control, isolate, restrain, or monitor another person with whom they have or have had a social relationship that involves a physical, sexual, or emotional component; and

WHEREAS, youth are our 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 we all should share; and

WHEREAS, in a single year, 9.5% of high school students reported being hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend; one in three high school students reported experiencing cyber threats online; and while, 25% of adolescents have been bullied through text-messaging; and only one half of parents reported not knowing that their children were experiencing bullying; and

WHEREAS, violent relationships in teens can have serious ramifications including the likelihood of doing poorly in school, binge drinking, suicide attempts, and physical fighting. Teen victims of violence may also carry the patterns of violence into future relationships as well as re-victimization; and

WHEREAS, most community leaders, parents, teachers, school personnel, healthcare providers, and other important youth service providers are unaware of the scope of the problem; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to raise awareness about this issue and provide training for teachers, counselors, and school staff so they may recognize when youth are exhibiting signs of dating violence; and

WHEREAS, Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for all citizens to learn about preventing dating violence and show support for Citizens Against Family Violence and other individuals who provide critical advocacy for and assistance to victims and it will benefit young people, their families, schools, and communities regardless of socioeconomic status ability, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, every person has the right to a safe and healthy relationship free from abuse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, on this 28th day of January, 2014 that the Henry County Board of Supervisors establishes February 2014 as "Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month", in Henry County. Furthermore, the Board encourages all County citizens to embrace this cause and work together to wipe out teen dating violence in our community and our nation.

H.G. Vaughn, Chairman
Henry County Board of Supervisors