



Proclamation

WHEREAS: There is a need to increase Minnesotans' awareness, to educate the public about sexual assault, heighten community awareness of available services concerning sexual assault, to encourage the understanding of the fact that sexual assault is a crime of violence that is everyone's concern regardless of sex, social class, occupation, ethnicity or religion; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Program for Victims of Sexual Assault, a project of the State Department of Corrections, and the first legislatively mandated statewide program in the nation, observes its tenth anniversary; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota has been a national leader in addressing the problem of sexual assault and is the first state to fund a program in the nation and is the first state to provide continuous funding to community-based sexual assault centers that provide support and assistance to victims and their families; and

WHEREAS: In the past decade the number of community-based centers in Minnesota has grown from two to 33 and services have been provided to 25,000 victims of sexual assault and their families and more than 87,000 professionals have been trained, and community education programs have been provided to more than 500,000 people, with volunteers contributing nearly 1,000,000 volunteer hours per year; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Program for Victims of Sexual Assault has changed policy to make the system more responsible to the needs of the victims and their families, has created specialized training programs and has developed innovative educational materials; and

WHEREAS: The commemoration of the Decade of Light salutes the extraordinary talents and dedication of the local program staff and volunteers and other professionals and public policy makers who have made Minnesota a leader in the nation; and

WHEREAS: This commemoration heightens the public's awareness of the issues surrounding sexual assault and pledges to the future our commitment to eliminate sexual violence in our society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the third week of April to be

MINNESOTA PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF

SEXUAL ASSAULT WEEK

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FILED

APR 17 1986

Joan Anderson Howe
Secretary of State

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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 sixteenth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-six, and of the State the one hundred twenty-seventh.

Joan Anderson Howe
Rudy Perpich
GOVERNOR