



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: HIV and AIDS have had a devastating, global impact. Since their discovery, HIV and AIDS have killed more than 25 million people – including 658,000 Americans. Currently, an estimated 35 million people are living with HIV or AIDS, with 2.3 million more people infected each year.

WHEREAS: AIDS and HIV infection are a top health concern in the United States, with almost 1.2 million Americans living with HIV infection, and an estimated 50,000 new HIV infections occurring each year. In Minnesota, there have been 10,112 cases of HIV infection reported since 1982, and there are 7,516 people currently known to be living with HIV; and

WHEREAS: In Minnesota, men who have sex with men, communities of color, and American Indians continue to have higher and disproportionately higher rates of HIV infection; and

WHEREAS: The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has designated an independent organization, the World AIDS Campaign, to oversee and unite global efforts to combat HIV and AIDS; and

WHEREAS: In recognition that changing the course of the global epidemic requires a renewed and unified effort, the World AIDS Campaign theme for World AIDS Day 2013, "Getting to Zero," aims to reduce new HIV infections, discrimination, and AIDS-related deaths to zero; and

WHEREAS: The fight against HIV infections and AIDS will only be won through increased advances and equal access to HIV prevention, testing, treatment, and care. Minnesotans are encouraged to educate themselves about the risks of HIV, know their HIV status through testing, practice prevention, seek care if infected, and demonstrate compassion for those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Sunday, December 1, 2013, as:

WORLD AIDS DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



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 14th day of November.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE