



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a crime that threatens the safety and lives of thousands of Floridians every year; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors that individuals use against their intimate partners or former partners to establish power and control; and

WHEREAS, while the State of Florida is recognized nationally as a leader in the creation of groundbreaking domestic violence programs, policies and services to survivors and their children, it remains a serious societal concern; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Uniform Crime Report reflected 105,640 reported domestic violence incidences and 63,193 arrests for domestic violence crimes; and

WHEREAS, 193 individuals died as a result of domestic violence murder and manslaughter in 2016, resulting in 17.4 percent of all homicides; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2016-2017, Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers provided emergency shelter to 14,394 survivors of domestic violence and their children totaling 682,311 nights in shelter; and

WHEREAS, advocates in certified domestic violence centers provided 145,327 safety plans and responded to 84,457 hotline calls; the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline received an additional 25,540 calls; and

WHEREAS, partnerships between state agencies, nonprofit and private organizations, law enforcement and the courts, health care and legal providers, faith-based communities and educational institutions create a coordinated, efficient and cost-effective system of services for survivors and their children; and

WHEREAS, these partnerships and collaborations working collectively and creatively help to provide safety and resources to survivors, prevent initial acts of intimate partner violence and hold perpetrators accountable;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing October 2017 as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Florida*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 5th day of October, in the year two thousand seventeen.





Governor