

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, healthy families and healthy communities are a cornerstone of the health and prosperity of our state; and

WHEREAS, violence against women is a health care issue, not only because of its immediate health consequences but also because of its links to other life-threatening and fatal conditions that affect victims and survivors throughout the lifespan; and

WHEREAS, nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, violence against women – including domestic violence and sexual assault – is associated with eight of the ten leading health indicators for Healthy People 2010, developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; and

WHEREAS, it is well documented that acts of violence and abuse have a profound impact on the health of Wisconsin women, men, children and families and on our economy. The health-related costs of rape, physical assault, stalking, and homicide by intimate partners in the United States exceed \$5.8 billion each year. Of this total, nearly \$4.1 billion are for direct medical and mental health care services, and productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, in combating domestic violence and sexual assault, it is critical that victims of domestic and sexual violence can turn to health and medical systems as safe supportive systems; and

WHEREAS, a public-private partnership, led by WPS Health Insurance, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation, the Wisconsin Medical Society, the Wisconsin Nurses Association and the Wisconsin Women's Council will host events as part of ongoing efforts to help health care providers better identify and serve victims of violence and support healthy families and healthy communities across the State of Wisconsin;

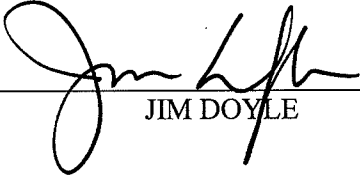
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim E. Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October 7, 2008

HEALTH CARES ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DAY

in Wisconsin and encourage health care providers across Wisconsin to become allies in the violence against women movement, including adopting best practices in assessing patients for family violence and sexual assault, addressing lifelong health consequences of such violence, and connecting victims to local resources.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this twenty third day of September in the year two thousand eight.


JIM DOYLE

By the Governor

DOUGLAS L. LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State