

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February Is Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month NCEDSV Thanks Governor Sisolak for Proclamation Raising Awareness About Prevalence of Issue

(February 1, 2022) The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) sincerely thanks Governor Sisolak for issuing the first ever proclamation declaring February Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in the state of Nevada. The proclamation is meant to highlight the prevalence and under reporting of teen dating violence (TDV).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) finds that millions of teens in the U.S. are affected each year by TDV. It occurs between two people in a close relationship and it can include various forms of violence including emotional, physical, psychological and sexual abuse, or stalking. Abuse happens in-person or virtually.

According to the CDC, one in ten adolescents have experienced physical abuse and only one third ever told anyone about it. Given Nevada school enrollment figures, this means tens of thousands of students each year are experiencing different forms of abuse. Often in secret.

"The patterns that are established early in life tend to carry over into adulthood," said Cameron Ballantyne, Executive Director of NCEDSV. "That is why it is so critical that we educate our youth early about setting appropriate boundaries, managing their own feelings and emotions in a developmentally appropriate way, and getting help if they recognize harmful behaviors or abusive acts by their partners, or in a friend's relationship." Ballantyne added.

Research by CDC determines that victims of TDV experience serious immediate and long-term effects that include depression and anxiety, drug alcohol and tobacco use, and thoughts of suicide. These long-ranging effects can impact their ability to succeed in school, participate in activities, form other important relationships with friends and family. TDV often includes isolation, so if a teenager in a relationship begins to spend all of their time with their partner, that can be an early sign that the relationship will be unhealthy. For other red flags, visit our website at ncedsv.org

About NCEDSV

The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (previously The Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence), is the statewide coalition of domestic and sexual violence programs. NCEDSV provides statewide advocacy, education and support to the front-line organizations that help those impacted by domestic and sexual violence. To learn more about services provided by NCEDSV, visit ncedsv.org