

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

## **TAKE A STAND AGAINST TEEN DATING VIOLENCE**

January 2008

The Honourable Governor  
State of  
Office of the Governor  
City, State Zip

Dear Governor:

Did you know that, according to nationwide surveys of teens conducted in 2006 and 2007

- One in three female teens in a dating relationship reports having feared for her safety?
- 30 percent of teens in a dating relationship have been text-messaged 10, 20 or 30 times an hour by a partner finding out where they are, what they are doing or who they are with?
- One in five teens in a serious relationship says that they have been hit, slapped or pushed by a partner?
- One in four girls in a relationship felt pressured to go further sexually than she wanted?

Clearly, the crime of teen dating violence and abuse, including physical, emotional and sexual assault, and harassment via texting, email or Instant Messaging is a cruel reality for many American teenagers. Like drug abuse, it's a reality that many parents remain unaware of. We write today to ask your help in educating the public about this issue.

The Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Initiative was spearheaded by teenagers across the nation who chose to take a stand and put a stop to teen dating violence. Initiated in 2004 by the American Bar Association and now supported by dozens of national, state and local organizations, the call to end teen dating violence was formally recognized in 2006 and 2007 when both Houses of Congress declared the first week in February "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week." In December, our colleagues in the Senate joined us in unanimously approving S.Res.388, declaring February 4 – 8, 2008, "National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week."

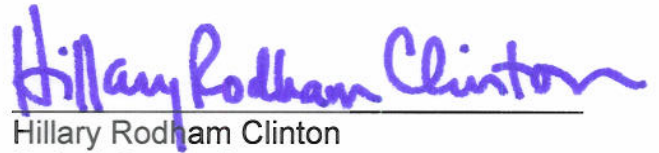
For the past two years, a number of governors have supported statewide recognition of the week, joining with organizations in their states that partner with us to help raise awareness of the prevalence and crime of teen dating violence in communities nationwide. This past year, a National Teen Dating Violence Hotline was established by the sponsors of the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Information about this hotline can be found at <http://loveisrespect.org>.

Please join this effort by taking an important and meaningful stand against teen dating violence and publicly support activities in your state during the week of February 4 – 8, 2008. I have attached a list of our partners in this initiative, as well as a copy of the Senate Resolution. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Laura Thurston Goodroe in Idaho Senator Mike Crapo's office in Washington, D.C. at 202/224-7500.

Sincerely,



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator  
Idaho



Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senator  
New York



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator  
Alaska



Joe Biden  
United States Senator  
Delaware