

**BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-29
DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2011 AS TEEN DATING
VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH**

WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a serious and growing problem throughout California and has become a prevalent problem in high schools and middle schools; and

WHEREAS, teen dating violence is a pattern of controlling, abusive, and aggressive behavior over another in a relationship. It can include verbal, emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or a combination of any of those; and

WHEREAS, victims of teen dating violence can be females or males; and

WHEREAS, one in three teenagers has experienced violence in a dating relationship and has feared for his/her physical safety; and

WHEREAS, one in five teenagers in a serious relationship reports having been hit, slapped, or pushed by a partner; and

WHEREAS, one in four girls who have been in a relationships report having been pressured to have sex or to engage in sexual activities that they did not want; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that teen dating violence is starting at an earlier age with 11 to 14 year olds able to identify aspects of teen dating abuse in their social lives; and

WHEREAS, a majority of parents surveyed either believe dating violence is not an issue or they admit they do not know if it is an issue; and

WHEREAS, involvement in violent relationships during the adolescent years can have serious ramifications for victims, putting them at higher risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior, suicide, and adult re-victimization; and

WHEREAS, the severity of violence between intimate partners has been observed to be greater in cases in which a pattern of violence has been established in adolescence; and

WHEREAS, teenagers deserve to be in a relationship free of the fear of violence. They have a right to have safe relationships.

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley's Peace and Justice Commission recommends adoption of this Resolution to catalyze community awareness and related efforts to address the safety, security and well-being of Berkeley's teenage girls and young women.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education hereby designates February 2011 as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month and urges all citizens to actively participate in the efforts to end violence in our homes, in our schools and in our communities

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of February, 2011 by the Board of Education.

AYES

NOES

ABSTAIN

ABSENT

John T. Selawsky, Clerk