



The Honorable Governor Tim Pawlenty
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

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Dear Governor Pawlenty:

Across the country, communities are declaring April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month. During this month, The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault is planning a series of activities to educate the citizens of Minnesota about sexual violence, to honor the many victims, to raise awareness of the resources available in our community, and to promote prevention of sexual violence.

According to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA), there were 2,555 reported rapes and/or attempted rapes in Minnesota in 2004. There were also 4,108 reported "other sex offenses" in our state. Despite the fact that programs in the state are doing an effective job and reported sex offenses are down slightly, sexual violence continues to be a huge issue in Minnesota. We as a state need to work harder to prevent it.

We would be honored if you sponsored an official proclamation to recognize April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in Minnesota beginning on April 1, 2006. Such a proclamation will emphasize your commitment to this important cause and recognize the efforts to those individuals who work to end violence. I have enclosed a sample proclamation. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information about sexual violence or our organization's efforts to prevent it.

The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault was formed in 1978 by a group of women dedicated to ending sexual violence in the state of Minnesota. MNCASA began as a small grassroots movement but as times have changed, we have been able to provide educational and training opportunities and technical assistance for rape crisis centers in Minnesota. Today, we strive to address many aspects of sexual violence, including victim services, criminal justice response, training and education, and sexual violence prevention. We also seek to address public policy initiatives that are directly or indirectly related to the issue of sexual violence.

Violence Against Women Action Day will be a precursor to Sexual Assault Awareness month. The rally for VAWAD will be held at the Capitol on March 29, 2006, from 12pm-1pm in the Rotunda. We invite you to participate in Violence Against Women Action Day, and we would be pleased if you presented the proclamation at that time. If you are unable to attend, we would be honored to read your proclamation to our supporters. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We appreciate your support and commitment to end sexual violence.

Sincerely,

Carla Ferrucci
Executive Director

Dresden Jones
Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator