



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH IN FLORIDA**

**WHEREAS, domestic violence is a crime that threatens the safety and lives of thousands of Floridians every year; and**

**WHEREAS, domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors that individuals use against their intimate partners or former partners to establish power and control; and**

**WHEREAS, while the State of Florida is recognized nationally as a leader in the creation of groundbreaking domestic violence programs, policies and services to survivors and their children, it remains a serious societal concern; and**

**WHEREAS, the 2016 Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Uniform Crime Report reflected 105,640 reported domestic violence incidences and 63,193 arrests for domestic violence crimes; and**

**WHEREAS, 193 individuals died as a result of domestic violence murder and manslaughter in 2016, resulting in 17.4 percent of all homicides; and**

**WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2016-2017, Florida's 42 certified domestic violence centers provided emergency shelter to 14,394 survivors of domestic violence and their children totaling 682,311 nights in shelter; and**

**WHEREAS, advocates in certified domestic violence centers provided 145,327 safety plans and responded to 84,457 hotline calls; the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline received an additional 25,540 calls; and**

**WHEREAS, partnerships between state agencies, nonprofit and private organizations, law enforcement and the courts, health care and legal providers, faith-based communities and educational institutions create a coordinated, efficient and cost-effective system of services for survivors and their children; and**

**WHEREAS, these partnerships and collaborations working collectively and creatively help to provide safety and resources to survivors, prevent initial acts of intimate partner violence and hold perpetrators accountable;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend my support to all observing October 2017 as *Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Florida*.**



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, in the year two thousand seventeen.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor