



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have a devastating impact on our nation's health, infecting nearly 20 million people each year and costing the American healthcare system nearly \$16 billion in direct medical costs; and

WHEREAS: Many STIs do not show symptoms, but some have the potential to cause serious health problems and can be passed onto newborn babies, especially if they are not detected and treated early; and

WHEREAS: In the United States, young men and women have the highest rates of STI infections with about half of new cases occurring among those aged 15 to 24 years, according to the Centers Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS: A record 28,631 cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were collectively reported to the Minnesota Department of Health in 2016; and

WHEREAS: Communities struggling with social, economic, racial and health-related inequalities often have limited access to STI testing and treatment services, resulting in higher infection rates particularly youth of color; and

WHEREAS: The reduction of STIs will be achieved through concentrated and expanded opportunities to detect and treat STI infections, especially by organizations that are representative of impacted communities and equipped to address racial and health inequalities; and

WHEREAS: Community Restoring Urban Youth Sexual Health (CRUSH) promotes STI testing opportunities that reach Minnesota's most vulnerable communities through observance of an annual STI testing day; and

WHEREAS: During the observance, Minnesotans are encouraged to educate themselves about the ways to prevent STIs, get tested, and seek treatment if infected.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, April 25, 2017 as:

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS TESTING DAY

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 13th day of April.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE