

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK April 3-7, 2006

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, thirty-two percent of young people have been bullied at least once and twelve percent have been bullied five times or more in the past month*; and,

WHEREAS, teenagers are two times more likely than others to be victims of violent crime**; and,

WHEREAS, the safety and well-being of many students, teachers and school staff are unnecessarily jeopardized each day by crime and violence, and far too frequently we hear about instances of substance abuse, gang activity, bullying, poor discipline, vandalism and violence in our schools; and,

WHEREAS, the issue of school and community violence continues to be intimidating to all and inhibits the means for achieving academic and social success; and,

WHEREAS, youth have taken a proactive role in schools and communities to prevent violence; and,

WHEREAS, youth have always risen to the call of their fellow classmates, and now, the call is louder than ever; and,

WHEREAS, the people of our country are concerned with the level of violence in our schools and communities and that is why I am (we are) supporting the National Youth Violence Prevention Campaign; and,

WHEREAS, the youth of our country are working to enhance the learning environment by helping to promote good citizenship and by making schools and communities safer and more secure; and,

WHEREAS, schools, school districts, communities, and corporate sponsors from across the country are uniting to protect our most vital resource – our youth; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, (We) _____, do hereby proclaim the week of April 3- April 7, 2006 as "National Youth Violence Prevention Week" and encourage schools and communities to unite in action to "Build Safer Communities...Peace By Peace."

Proclaimed this _____ day of _____, 2006.

*Youth & Violence: Students Speak Out For A More Civil Society, The Colorado Trust and Families and Work Institute, 2002

** Our Vulnerable Teenagers: Their Victimization, Its Consequences, and Directions for Prevention and Intervention, National Council on Crime and Delinquency and the National Center for Victims of Crime, 2002)