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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Eric Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney  
Subject: Press Release – Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month  
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Every year, approximately 1 out of every 10 high school students or 1.5 million, nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner. It is also known that 3 in 4 parents have never talked to their children about domestic violence. In light of these alarming facts, every year during the month of February advocates join efforts to raise awareness about dating violence, highlight promising practices, and encourage communities to get involved.

In 2010, the month of February was officially designated by Congress as Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. As a result, discussions about the rising epidemic of teen dating violence are not only encouraged, but embraced. These discussions focus on the physical, sexual, and psychological abuses that are present in relationships between teenagers across the country. If you are the parent of a teenager, take the initiative this February to speak with your teen about teen dating violence. If you suspect that your teen is committing teen dating violence, make sure you discuss the criminal consequences of such actions with them.

There are many resources available to provide information and support to victims and assist service providers and communities to decrease the prevalence of dating violence among young people. Anyone can make this happen by raising awareness about the issue, saying something about abuse when you see it and organizing your community to make a difference.

For more information see <http://teendvmonth.org/>

