



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

NATIONAL BULLYING AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, bullying is physical, verbal, sexual, or emotional harm or intimidation intentionally directed at a person or group of people; and

WHEREAS, bullying occurs in neighborhoods, playgrounds, schools, and through technology, such as the internet and cell phones, often referred to as cyber bullying; and

WHEREAS, cyber bullying can occur on social media sites at any time, and inappropriate and harassing messages can be posted anonymously and distributed quickly to a wide audience, which can be detrimental to the victim's confidence and self-respect; and

WHEREAS, various researchers have concluded that bullying is the most common form of violence, affecting millions of American children and adolescents annually; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Florida's children and adolescents are affected by bullying annually; and

WHEREAS, targets of bullying and cyber bullying are more likely to acquire physical, emotional, and learning problems, and students who are repeatedly bullied often fear such activities as riding the bus, going to school, and attending community activities; and

WHEREAS, children who bully are at greater risk of engaging in more serious violent behaviors; and

WHEREAS, children who witness bullying often feel less secure, more fearful, and intimidated;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 2014 as *National Bullying Awareness Month*.

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 30th day of September, in the year two thousand fourteen.




Governor