



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: Latinos make up sixteen percent of the population of the United States and its territories but account for eighteen percent of all new HIV infections and eighteen percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS nationally; and

WHEREAS: Since 1982, 679 Latino men, women, and children have been diagnosed with the HIV infection in Minnesota. And, as of December 31, 2010, 150 people have died and 565 are living with HIV infection in the state; and

WHEREAS: Late diagnosis of HIV is associated with increased transmission and death rates and health care costs, and forty-eight percent of Latinos in Minnesota have tested late over the last ten years—missing years of beneficial treatment and opportunities to prevent HIV from spreading; and

WHEREAS: It is critical to raise awareness of the importance of early HIV diagnosis and care within the Latino community and continue to offer expanded, culturally appropriate HIV testing, prevention, treatment, and care-related programs and services; and

WHEREAS: AIDS has challenged extended Latino family and community members to unite and confront the stigmas associated with the disease such as drug use, sexual promiscuity, fears of deportation, and cultural barriers; and

WHEREAS: Latino AIDS Awareness Day brings an opportunity to increase community awareness, commemorate those who have lost their battle to HIV/AIDS, and embrace the National HIV/AIDS Strategy's call for the disease integration with other sexually transmitted diseases, viral hepatitis, and tuberculosis-related programs; and

WHEREAS: Representing a celebration of the Latino culture and renewed commitment and solidarity to combat HIV and AIDS, the campaign theme for National Latino AIDS Awareness Day 2011 is, "Latinos Unite! Let's Stay Healthy! Get Tested for HIV!"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2011 to be:

LATINO AIDS AWARENESS 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 6th day of October.

Handwritten signature of Mark Dayton in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Mark Ritchie in blue ink.

SECRETARY OF STATE