



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

NADIA LOCKYER
Supervisor, Second District

LOCKYER PRESENTS PROCLAMATION DECLARING FEBRUARY "TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH"

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

Contact: Christine Gasparac at (510) 272-6692

OAKLAND—Alameda County Supervisor Nadia Lockyer announced today that the Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted to declare February "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" to bring attention to the serious and growing problem of teen abuse.

The proclamation defines teen dating violence as a "pattern of controlling, abusive and aggressive behavior that can include verbal, emotional, physical or sexual abuse over another partner in a relationship" and studies show that such relationships can have long-term effects on victims, putting them at a higher risk for substance abuse, suicide, eating disorders and risky sexual contact.

Girls in abusive relationships are also 4 to 6 times more likely to become pregnant with 26 percent of those teens reporting that they had experienced physical abuse.

"Most parents are unaware that this is a serious problem, and young women are especially vulnerable," said Lockyer. "It affects approximately one in three adolescent girls in the United States, but surveys show that most teens report that their parents have not talked to them about dating abuse."

Studies show that 81 percent of parents think teen dating is not a serious issue. By establishing February as "Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month," Alameda County will raise awareness of the issue and encourage communities to educate and reach out to parents to help families address the issue.

Alameda County Supervisor Nadia Lockyer of Hayward represents District Two on the Board of Supervisors, which includes Hayward, Newark, Union City, Sunol and parts of Fremont.

###