WHEREAS: Relationship violence, a pattern of behavior used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner, occurs across Minnesota and the nation to one in three women; and

WHEREAS: Domestic violence programs across the state provide support and resources to over 55,000 victim and survivors to ensure their safety; and

WHEREAS: Barriers and systemic racial disparities impact victim and survivors of domestic violence. Everyone experiencing violence should be able to access the help they need; and

WHEREAS: Domestic violence programs serve survivors of all immigrant statuses because no one should have to choose between staying in an abusive relationship and finding safety; and

WHEREAS: Survivors are believed and supported in their search for justice in order to empower others to come forwards; and

WHEREAS: Safe and affordable housing is a top priority and a human right, as domestic violence continues to be a leading cause of homelessness for women; and

WHEREAS: Community collaboration ensures the safety of victim and survivors in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: Preventing violence before it begins and transforming behavior after violence has occurred is essential to our shared goal of a violence-free Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2019, as:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

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 30th day of September.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE