A Proclamation

Whereas, Violence against women and gender-based violence are human rights violations, and these abuses are obstacles to efforts for peace and gender equity in all societies around the world; and

Whereas, In 2016, there were eighteen documented incidents of domestic violence homicides, resulting in the murder of ten women and two men, plus five suicides by the perpetrators; and

Whereas, Between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, 1,895 unduplicated incidents of sexual assault were reported to Massachusetts Department of Public Health-funded Rape Crisis Centers and Llamanos, the statewide Spanish language helpline; and

Whereas, Jane Doe Inc. launched this primary prevention campaign in Massachusetts to call upon all men and boys - regardless of age, race, religion, political affiliation, profession, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic - to make both a personal and public commitment to being part of the solution in ending violence against women and all gender-based violence; and

Whereas, The Massachusetts White Ribbon Day Campaign invites us to reimagine the norms associated with manhood as valuing respect, compassion and non-violence as an antidote to the abuse of power in relationships and society; and

Whereas, Jane Doe Inc. organized the first statewide campaign in the nation in conjunction with the international White Ribbon Campaign that currently exists in over 60 countries; and

Whereas, Over 7,444 men in Massachusetts have already signed on as White Ribbon Day Ambassadors and over 155 organizations and communities have signed on as White Ribbon Day Affiliates; and

Whereas, Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hopes to encourage the adoption of practices and policies that support survivors, hold offenders accountable and prevent instances of violence,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim March 1st, 2019, to be,

WHITE RIBBON DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-fifth day of February, in the year two thousand and nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts