

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO'S COMMITMENT TO PREVENTING TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND SUPPORTING EDUCATION, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES TO PROVIDE RESOURCES TO YOUTH ON TEEN DATING VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, in the United States, one in three teens experience physical, sexual, or emotional abuse from a romantic partner, and these early experiences can have long-lasting impacts on their mental, emotional, and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, nearly half of youth who have experienced intimate partner abuse report that such incidents occurred on school grounds, impacting their safety and ability to thrive academically and socially; and

WHEREAS, teen dating violence negatively affects students' educational outcomes and personal development, often contributing to decreased attendance, lower academic performance, and school disengagement; and

WHEREAS, even witnessing acts of dating violence can lead to increased trauma, anxiety, and reduced academic engagement among bystanders; and

WHEREAS, those who experience dating violence during their youth are significantly more likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, substance misuse, and suicidal thoughts or behaviors, underscoring the need for early intervention and support; and

WHEREAS, open and age-appropriate education about healthy relationships, consent, boundaries, and communication can shift harmful norms and empower youth to make respectful, informed choices in their relationships; and

WHEREAS, 77 percent of teens in abusive relationships never confide in anyone about their experiences, often due to fear, stigma, or lack of awareness about available support; and

WHEREAS, many parents and guardians remain unaware of the prevalence and seriousness of teen dating violence, which can hinder supportive dialogue and delay prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Board of Education have recognized the urgent need to address teen dating violence through education, policy, and community collaboration; and

WHEREAS, local youth, schools, families, and organizations all play a critical role in fostering a culture of healthy relationships, respect, and mutual support.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo affirms its commitment to preventing teen dating violence and supporting education, programs, and services to provide resources to youth on teen dating violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board supports the voluntary integration of teen dating violence prevention and healthy relationship education into County youth health curricula and extracurricular programming.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board encourages San Mateo County schools and youth-serving organizations to partner with local experts, mental health professionals, and survivor advocates to provide culturally responsive, trauma-informed resources and training.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board calls upon parents, caregivers, educators, and community leaders to engage in open conversations with youth about relationships, respect, and safety, helping to reduce stigma around this issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board affirms that all young people have the right to safe, healthy, and supportive relationships and that preventing teen dating violence is a shared responsibility that begins with education, compassion, and awareness.

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