

fight, and they haven't even taken the first step. So we want to set a good example.

Let me lastly say that, to all the women here and all across America who are abused or who have been abused, you are not invisible. The people who have stood with you today can now say that you are being heard, you are being seen, you are being understood.

The following quote is from one of Hillary's favorite books, and I asked if I could use it today. It's called "In the Spirit," by Susan Taylor, the editor of *Essence* magazine, and it talks about your courage, your strength, and your hope. She writes, quote, "While we cannot change the past, with the wisdom of spirit, we can change what it means to us and to our future. With understanding and compassion, we can break a cycle of despair, rise above our sorrows, and find a new emotional home from which to create a brighter tomorrow. Each breath we take offers us a chance to create a better life."

Now, I hope because of all these efforts, we will all, with each breath we take, resolve that a part of that better life will be less and less and less domestic violence and abuse, until we have taken it out of the spirit and the soul and the life of the United States of America.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:06 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Sgt. Mark Wynn, detective, Nashville-Davidson, TN, police department; Jerry Rossi, president, Marshalls, Inc.; and Tana Sherman, survivor of domestic violence.

Proclamation 6828—Child Health Day, 1995

October 2, 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In hospitals and homes across the country, children begin life free from the burdens of the world. With their eyes and minds open to every influence, they depend on their caregivers to help them take the first, tentative steps toward adulthood. Parents and

other family members, communities and churches, educators and the media—all play a role in these crucial early years, providing young people with the direction they need to become happy, productive citizens.

Tragically, far too many children go without this essential love and guidance, living in homes, neighborhoods, and schools where they see and endure violence. One in five pregnant women is abused by her partner; millions of children each year are reported to public social service agencies as being neglected or abused; and in the decade between 1982 and 1992, the number of these reports increased 132 percent. We know that young men and women suffer lasting effects from such experiences—teen suicides have tripled in the last 35 years, and countless youth have grown up to continue the cycle of destructive behavior in their own relationships and families.

In recognition of these heartbreaking realities, the theme of Child Health Day, 1995, is the elimination of violence. As our Nation observes this special day, let us renew our commitment to America's children and rededicate ourselves to ending the physical and emotional mistreatment that damage self-esteem and well-being. Solutions to the plague of violence lie within our own society, and we can find hope in the partnerships forming among public health and mental health professionals, schools, law enforcement officers, religious groups, child care experts, and community leaders. Their efforts, aided by the extensive Federal network already in place, will help to strengthen families and instill in our young people the ambition and spirit that has always driven America forward.

To emphasize the importance of nurturing children's growth and development from birth to maturity, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 18, 1928, as amended (36 U.S.C. 143), has called for the designation of the first Monday in October as "Child Health Day" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 2, 1995, as Child Health Day. On this day, and on every day throughout the year, I call upon

my fellow Americans to deepen their commitment to protecting children, taking the necessary steps to meet our obligations to them and to our Nation's future.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:58 p.m., October 2, 1995]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

Proclamation 6829—National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 1995

October 2, 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Domestic violence disrupts communities, destroys relationships, and harms hundreds of thousands of Americans each year. It is a serious crime that takes many forms and a complex problem with multiple causes. Those abused can be children, siblings, spouses, or parents, and both victims and offenders come from all racial, social, religious, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. Among the most tragic effects of family violence is the cycle of abuse perpetuated by children and teenagers who see and experience brutality at home—these young people often lack crucial guidance to help them form strong, positive bonds of kinship.

Americans are fortunate that knowledge about domestic violence has increased and that public interest in deterrence is stronger than ever. During the past decade, vital partnerships have formed between Federal agencies and private-sector organizations to expand prevention services in urban, rural, and underserved areas across the country. These efforts have helped to coordinate aid for victims and their children—not only providing shelter, but also furnishing alcohol and drug

abuse treatment, child care, and counseling. In addition, I am proud that the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 contains tough new sanctions and includes a provision for a national “hot line” where victims can receive information and assistance.

But the struggle to end domestic violence is far from over. According to a recent Justice Department study for 1992 and 1993, women are about six times more likely than men to experience violence committed by offenders with whom they had an intimate relationship. And in 1992, nearly 30 percent of all female homicide victims were known to have been killed by husbands, former husbands, or boyfriends. We need more prevention campaigns and public awareness efforts; we must develop and share successful methods of prevention, intervention, and treatment for victims and perpetrators; and we must continue to build alliances among government, community associations, businesses, educators, and religious organizations to strengthen our families and to teach alternatives to violent behavior.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 1995, as “National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.” I call upon government officials, law enforcement agencies, health professionals, educators, and the people of the United States to join together to end the family violence that threatens so many citizens. I further encourage all Americans to recognize the dedication of those working to end the horrors of abuse. Offering support, guidance, encouragement, and compassion to survivors, these caring individuals exemplify our Nation's highest ideals of service and citizenship.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton