



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA HEALTHY MARRIAGE DAY

WHEREAS, research indicates that men and women in healthy marriages live longer, healthier, wealthier, safer more satisfying lives and are more loyal, stable employees with less absenteeism, better focus, less stress, less anxiety, and lower health insurance costs; and

WHEREAS, helping couples prepare for and maintain healthy marriages has the potential to reduce long- term public assistance costs commonly associated with divorcing families including housing subsidies, food stamps, bankruptcies, and juvenile detention; and

WHEREAS, women in healthy marriages have lower risks of experiencing domestic violence and healthy marriages reduce the risks that adults will be either perpetrators or victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, a healthy marriage protects married adults and their teenage children against mental illness and psychological distress and results in improved emotional health, reduced risk of suicide and reduced use of cigarettes, alcohol, and illicit drugs; and

WHEREAS, the family is the most constant element in a child's life, providing the context in which the child develops and influences the way the child thinks, feels, acts, and responds to the world both as a child and later as an adult. A healthy marriage increases the likelihood that fathers and mothers have good relationships with their children; and

WHEREAS, children do best on all measures of well being when raised in a stable home with their two, married, biological parents. Stable two-parent homes provide children with greater monetary and non-monetary resources. When parents are not equipped to enter into a healthy marriage, children are more likely to experience abuse, deep and persistent poverty, school failure, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, and engage in other risky behaviors; and

WHEREAS, while more than 158,000 couples enter into marriage in Florida each year, often with great expectations for a bright future, many do not have the knowledge they desire and deserve to build and maintain a healthy marriage; over 80,000 marriages are ended in divorce in Florida each year and over 1.4 million, or one in every three Florida children, are living in single parent homes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and well wishes to all observing February 14, as

Florida Healthy Marriage Day

and encourage individuals and communities to honor couples in healthy marriages and engage in efforts to strengthen marriages and support families.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 5th day of February, in the year two thousand seven.

Handwritten signature of Charlie Crist in blue ink.
Governor