



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, a healthy and productive community is essential to the mission of the state of Florida and its ability to successfully promote and protect the health and safety of all of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, untreated and undiagnosed Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) among Florida's citizens can erode our most important asset—the people in our communities; and

WHEREAS, these untreated and undiagnosed diseases among Florida's citizens can affect the most vulnerable of our populations, including pregnant women, newborn children, and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2008, Florida provisionally reported over 64,129 cases of STDs in the age group of 15-24 year-olds and an increased case rate in 20-24 year-olds from 2,468 per 100,000 in 2007 to 2,759 per 100,000 population; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2008, more than 10,800 cases of STDs in pregnant women, and 43 cases of infants diagnosed with an STD were reported; and

WHEREAS, citizens who are knowledgeable about these diseases and empowered through awareness efforts are less likely to endanger their own health and the health of their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, much of the spread of STDs is preventable and effective prevention measures and risk avoidance can substantially curtail the spread of these diseases;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing April 2009 as ***Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month***.



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 Capitol, this 23rd day of March, in the year two thousand nine.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Charlie Crist".

Governor