

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

By His Excellency

GOVERNOR WILLIAM F. WELD

1995

- WHEREAS:** Gay youth and their straight supporters are organizing the nation's first Gay/Straight Youth Alliance Pride March on May 20, 1995, in Boston; and
- WHEREAS:** Gay and straight youth lobbied for and won passage of landmark legislation that prohibits discrimination against gay and lesbian students in Massachusetts public schools--legislation that was signed into law in December 1993; and
- WHEREAS:** Thirty percent of adolescent suicide is committed by gay youth, who are at risk as a result of being discriminated against in school, abusing drugs and alcohol, and running away from home; and
- WHEREAS:** Massachusetts is home to the nation's first Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth, a Weld/Cellucci Administration initiative, which has supported Massachusetts' gay and lesbian youth through the creation of many school-based programs; and
- WHEREAS:** On May 20, 1995, the Gay/Straight Youth Pride March is celebrating the progress made over the last three years and the Commonwealth's commitment to providing a healthy environment for all students in Massachusetts' public schools; and
- WHEREAS:** It is appropriate that all Massachusetts citizens honor and commend the many young people who are working to prevent discrimination and violence against gay and lesbian students in public schools throughout the Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM F. WELD, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of May 1995, as

GAY AND STRAIGHT YOUTH PRIDE MONTH

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 seventeenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and nineteenth.

William F. Weld

WILLIAM F. WELD

By His Excellency the Governor

Handwritten signature of William F. Galvin in black ink.

WILLIAM F. GALVIN
Secretary of the Commonwealth



GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS