

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency is widely under-diagnosed and misdiagnosed. Fewer than 10% of those predicted to have Alpha-1 have been accurately diagnosed. Although Alpha-1 is easily detected using a simple blood test, it is less familiar to doctors than it should be and it often takes five to eight years from the time symptoms first appear before a proper diagnosis is made; and

Whereas, Alpha-1 is the most common known genetic risk factor for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), the 3rd leading cause of death in the U.S., behind only heart disease and cancer. Lung disease is the most frequent cause of disability and early death among affected Alphas, striking in the prime of life and a major reason for lung transplants; and

Whereas, Alpha-1 originates in the liver and can lead to liver failure at any time in life. It is the leading genetic cause of liver transplants in children. Currently, the only treatment for the liver disease of Alpha-1 is a liver transplant,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2018, to be,

ALPHA-1 AWARENESS 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 first day of November, in the year two thousand and eighteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in black ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in black ink.

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in black ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts