



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY (ALPHA-1) AWARENESS MONTH

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) is a hereditary disorder that can result in life-threatening lung disease in adults and/or liver disease at any age; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 occurs worldwide, but its prevalence varies by population; the Alpha-1 Foundation reports that an estimated 19 million people in the United States have one normal and one defective alpha-1 gene, making them carriers who may pass the disorder on to their children; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Rare Disorders estimates that while at least 100,000 people in the United States are likely affected by Alpha-1, a mere 10 percent or fewer of these people have been diagnosed; Alpha-1 is often misdiagnosed as asthma or smoking-related Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), causing patients to miss opportunities for the early support and treatment therapies available to them; and

WHEREAS, anyone suffering from COPD or unexplained liver disease is encouraged to take a simple blood test to rule out Alpha-1 as the cause; it is important to increase awareness and detection of this serious hereditary disorder to reduce misdiagnoses and improve treatment options for those affected; and

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 Awareness Month is a nationwide campaign to advocate for those affected by this condition by raising awareness, funding research, and educating the public and medical community about Alpha-1 detection and treatment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November, 2018, as "**ALPHA-1 ANTITRYPSIN DEFICIENCY (ALPHA-1) AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-sixth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.