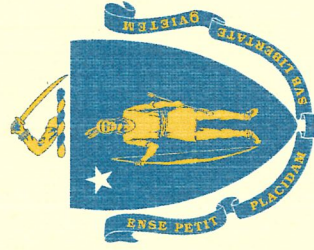


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, Pain is a major public health problem and is one of the most common reasons Americans seek medical care; and

Whereas, 50 million American adults live with chronic pain and 19.6 million live with high-impact chronic pain as a result of serious illnesses and injuries; and

Whereas, One in four adults and among minorities, almost twice that number suffer from chronic pain in Massachusetts; and

Whereas, Pain negatively impacts almost every aspect of a person's life and emotional well-being including the ability to work, sleep and engage in social activities as well as adversely impacts pain sufferers' families and caregivers; and

Whereas, The Institute of Medicine has found that pain costs the United States economy \$560 to \$630 billion per year in medical expenses, lost wages, lost productivity and other associated indirect costs; and

Whereas, The Massachusetts Pain Initiative, The U.S. Pain Foundation, The Tufts University School of Medicine, The American Chronic Pain Association, The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, The American Society for Pain Management Nursing, The American Society for Pain Management Nursing Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, The Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Association, The Chronic Pain Research Alliance, The American Academy of Pain Medicine, and For Grace: Women in Pain, are all working together in Massachusetts to remove the barriers to effective pain care for all Massachusetts citizens and eliminate the under-treatment of pain,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim the month of September, 2020, to be,

PAIN 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 September, in the year two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts