

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** there are more than 6,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and
- WHEREAS,** while each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect an estimated 25 million Americans; and
- WHEREAS,** many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and
- WHEREAS,** while more than 575 drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and
- WHEREAS,** individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and
- WHEREAS,** while the public is familiar with some rare diseases such as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease” and sympathetic to those affected, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding research and raising public awareness to support the search for treatments; and
- WHEREAS,** thousands of residents of Vermont are among those affected by rare diseases since nearly one in 12 Americans have rare diseases; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day on February 28, 2017; and
- WHEREAS,** thousands of patients and caregivers, medical professionals, researchers, companies developing orphan products to treat people with rare diseases, and others in the United States around the world will participate in that observance.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2017  
to be

**RARE DISEASE AWARENESS DAY**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of  
Vermont on this 28th day of February, A.D. 2017.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", written over a horizontal line.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney L. Wilson", written over a horizontal line.  
Brittney L. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs