

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, up to 50 million Americans are affected by bladder diseases and conditions including urinary incontinence, overactive bladder, underactive bladder, interstitial cystitis, nocturia, urinary tract infections, bladder cancer, urotrauma, and neurogenic bladder; and

WHEREAS, WHEREAS bladder diseases and conditions have a significant impact on health and quality of life -- contributing to decreased physical activity (which can increase obesity levels and risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease), depression, social isolation, falls, sexual dysfunction, loss of self-esteem, hospitalizations, nursing home admissions, and even death; and

WHEREAS, WHEREAS bladder diseases and conditions result in costs estimated at more than \$70 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, WHEREAS bladder problems are highly stigmatized, and open dialogue generated by Bladder Health Month can reduce stigma and empower providers and patients to have much-needed conversations about bladder health; and

WHEREAS, WHEREAS medical and behavioral research to better understand and maintain bladder health and treat bladder diseases is critically needed yet poorly recognized; and

WHEREAS, WHEREAS bladder diseases and conditions are common in military veterans; more than 1 in 10 military service members injured in Afghanistan and Iraq have “urotrauma” injuries (damage to the urinary tract or reproductive organs); one in five younger women veterans report overactive bladder, stress urinary incontinence and/or painful bladder symptoms;ⁱ more than three-quarters of veterans with spinal cord injury suffer from neurogenic bladder; and bladder cancer is the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer among Veterans Affairs (VA) Health System patients; and

WHEREAS, WHEREAS preventative campaigns and measures for diseases and conditions this extensive and expensive are routine and accepted in common medical, societal and public health practice; yet none exists in a large, systematic fashion for bladder health; and

NOW Therefore, I, insert Governor’s name, do proclaim November 2016 as

NATIONAL BLADDER HEALTH MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 4th day of April, A.D. 2016



Peter Shumlin
Governor
