

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, gastroschisis is a defect of the abdominal wall that occurs during pregnancy which may allow the intestines and sometimes other organs to stick outside the baby's body; and

WHEREAS, babies born with gastroschisis will require surgery to place the abdominal organs inside the baby's body and repair the abdominal wall; and

WHEREAS, each year, 1 in 2,229 individuals (approximately 4.5 / 10,000 births) are born with gastroschisis in the United States, and a similar proportion of Vermont births (approximately 3.3 / 10,000 births);

WHEREAS, infants with gastroschisis can have difficulty even after surgery with feeding, digestion of food, weight gain, and absorption of nutrients; and

WHEREAS, many Americans living with gastroschisis have serious conditions including failure to thrive/slow growth, short bowel syndrome, multiple organ transplants, and long term feeding issues; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) advises women to take steps before and during pregnancy to reduce the risk of having a baby born with birth defects like gastroschisis. These steps include taking a daily multivitamin with folic acid, not smoking or drinking alcohol during pregnancy, and most importantly, speaking with your doctor about how you may increase your chance of having a healthy baby; and

WHEREAS, the CDC is currently conducting the [National Birth Defects Prevention Study](#), one of the largest U.S. studies looking at possible causes and risk factors for birth defects like gastroschisis; and

WHEREAS, Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation (AAGF) organized the nationwide observance of Gastroschisis Awareness Day on July 30, 2013, and every year thereafter, to commemorate those living with or deceased from gastroschisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim July 30, 2016 as

GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY

in Vermont, and encourage awareness of gastroschisis and the individuals and families impacted by the condition.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 2nd day of June, A.D. 2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter Shumlin", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor