

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, Neuromyelitis Optica (NMO), also known as Devic's Disease, is a rare autoimmune disorder in which the immune system cells and antibodies primarily attack the optic nerves and spinal cord; and

WHEREAS, NMO causes damage to the optic nerves and spinal cord which can lead to inflammation, pain, loss of vision, weakness, paralysis in the legs and arms, loss of sensation, and problems with the bladder and bowel function; and

WHEREAS, NMO is more common in women, who make up 80% of all cases, than in men, and occurs in all parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, NMO can occur at any age in children as young as 3 and adults as old as 90, and is most common between the ages of 40-50; and

WHEREAS, early diagnosis of NMO is critical and if left untreated it can lead to irreversible effects, and while there is no cure for NMO, with early detection, individuals who are diagnosed can receive medical attention; and

WHEREAS, it is important to improve public awareness of NMO so it can be diagnosed at the earliest stage possible and proper treatment can begin.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, do hereby proclaim March 2018 as

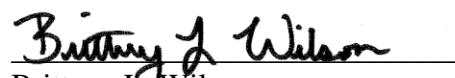
NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 22nd day of February, A.D. 2018.



Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney I. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs