State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy is the number one genetic cause of death for infants under two, and affects approximately one in 11,000 babies, and one in 50 Americans is a genetic carrier; and

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy is a disease that reduces an individual's physical strength by affecting the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, taking away the ability to perform basic functions of life, including breathing and swallowing; and

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy can affect any race, ethnicity, or gender and can take a powerful emotional toll on patients and their families; and

WHEREAS, there is now an FDA-approved treatment for Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which is proven to be most effective when administered as soon as possible, and while this treatment is a breakthrough, there remains a pressing need for continued research as treating some cases of Spinal Muscular Atrophy will require a combination of therapies; and

WHEREAS, screening newborns for Spinal Muscular Atrophy is key to preventing the detrimental effects of the condition; and

WHEREAS, Spinal Muscular Atrophy has both devastated and inspired families and their communities throughout the state, nation, and world, and finding a cure will require increased public awareness of the disease, the need for increased research and screening, and the challenges it presents to patients and their families.

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

SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 26th day of July, A.D. 2018

Philip B. Scott
Governor

Jaye Pershing Johnson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs