

**State of Vermont  
Executive Department  
A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** there are nearly 7,000 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 almost 30 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 450 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, 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,** residents of Vermont are among those affected by rare diseases because nearly ten percent of Americans have rare diseases; and

**WHEREAS,** the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day on February 29, 2020.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim February 29, 2020 as

**RARE DISEASE DAY**

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 29th day of February, A.D. 2020.



Philip B. Scott  
Governor

Brittney L. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs