

**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

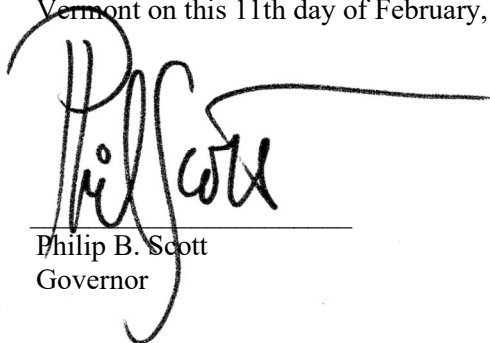
WHEREAS, the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is organizing a nationwide observance of Rare Disease Day on February 28, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim February 28, 2021 as

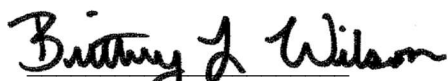
RARE DISEASE DAY

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 11th day of February, A.D. 2021.


Philip B. Scott
Governor




Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs